FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 MARCH 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Air Activity — A formation of Iraq's Super Etendard aircraft attacked and "completely destroyed" two large "naval targets" in the area southwest of Khark Island, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio on 27 March. At the same time, Iraqi planes dealt a "strong blow" to an Iranian oil pumping station near Khorramabad, scoring direct and accurate hits, the spokesman added. Iraq's military communique for 27 March, broadcast by the radio, said that Iraqi aircraft also raided an Iranian air defense system on the southern front east of Basra.

Although monitored Iranian media did not mention an Iraqi air attack on shipping near Khark Island, Tehran radio confirmed that Iraqi planes raided targets near Khorramabad andreported that Iraqi planes bombed Pol-e Dokhtar, a small town located near oil fields southwest of Khorramabad. Meanwhile, Athens radio announced that a Greek tanker was hit by a rocket in the Gulf, adding that efforts were under way to tranship the oil from the tanker so that the vessel can be repaired.

Chemical Weapons, Mediation — Welcoming the UN delegation's report confirming Iraq's use of chemical weapons, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati called on the UN Security Council to adopt a clear-cut position and condemn the Iraqi Government, according to IRNA. In another development, Algerian FLN Political Bureau member Mohamed Cherif Messaadia denied recent reports that Algeria has formulated a plan to end the Iran-Iraq war but stressed that his country is still making mediation efforts to end the conflict, QNA reported.

Israel

The Knesset elections apparently will be held in July, although Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres will meet again shortly to finalize the date, IDF Radio announced in a report on the outcome of a 28 March meeting between the Likud and Alignment leaders. Noting that the Alignment wants the elections early in July while Likud prefers to hold them later, the radio said it is improbable that this difference will prevent Shamir and Peres from reaching an agreement.

Jordan

Jordan is holding talks with the British Government to purchase 1,100 surface-to-air antiaircraft missiles after the United States suspended Jordan's request for Stinger missiles, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Amman. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Richard Luce to review bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, Amman radio stated.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Cabinet is studying the idea of national military conscription and whether it should be compulsory, King Fahd announced in an open dialogue with students broadcast by Riyadh radio on 26 March.

Iran

Two Turkish diplomats were wounded in an assassination attempt in Tehran early on 28 March, IRNA reported. A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement cited by Ankara Radio held Armenian terrorists responsible for the attacks and said Turkey has asked Iran to take measures to protect Turkish Embassy personnel in Tehran.

Lebanon

A French diplomat was shot and seriously wounded while traveling to work at the French Embassy, Beirut and Paris radios reported. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio said that clashes continued across the contact lines, injuring about 20 people in East Beirut. The Islamic Jihad Organizaton claimed responsibility for subsequent explosions in Druze shops in West Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis on 27 March after concluding talks with high-ranking officials in Algeria, Tunis radio announced. Before leaving, 'Arafat announced that Algeria will host the fifth Fatah Conference and the 17th PNCsession although he did not provide dates for either, the radio added.

Egypt

Reports that ground, sea, and air borders with Libya will be opened on 29 March are "totally untrue," an official source cited by MENA announced. Such a move should be preceded by an agreement between the two countries based on a "genuine wish" to foster interaction and should not be made unilaterally, the official added.

Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak, in a 27 March speech reported by MENA, commended President Reagan's "firm stand" in rejecting recent proposals by "irresponsible quarters" to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He warned those who support such a move that they are subjecting U.S. interests to "immense danger and great jeopardy."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

Middle East & Africa

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AFP: Arab League Official Suggests Embargo on Iran

NC271815 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Vienna, March 27 (AFP) — Arab League Deputy Secretary General Adnan Omran today implicitly called for an embargo on arms sales to Iran.

Speaking to journalists here, Mr. Omran said the international community should meet its responsibilities and embargo "the party in the Gulf war which continues to reject all peace attempts." Mr. Omran, who is in Vienna for an "Arab week" meeting, said that unlike Iran, Iraq had several times said it was willing to make peace.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis After Talks in Algiers

JN271733 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Tunis this morning after concluding a short visit to Algiers lasting 1 day during which he met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. During their 2-hour meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas that are related to the Palestine question. They also discussed the hostile U.S. stand on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, stressing the need to take quick action in order to face the dangers threatening the holy city and the difficulties and challenges which our people inside the occupied homeland are currently facing. The talks also dealt with the need to adopt a unified Arab stand in order to deal with the various challenges facing the Arab nation. The two leaders also reviewed the situation in the Palestinian arena and the current preparations to hold the new PNC session in Algiers. The talks also dealt with the bilateral Palestinian- Algerian relations and the means of strengthening and promoting them continuously.

Abu 'Ammar thanked the Algerian president for Algeria's firm and clear stand in support of our Palestinian people's struggle and in preserving the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, its legitimate leadership, and the independent Palestinian national decisionmaking.

Our radio correspondent learned that the Palestinian and Algerian sides agreed on the need to continue consultations concerning various issues of common interest. He added that an atmosphere of brotherhood and noble spirit of struggle prevailed during the meeting which was attended on the Palestinian side by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and the PLO representative in Algiers.

Algiers To Host PNC

LD271854 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis today after a 24-hour visit to Algiera during which he had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid and the foreign and interior ministers on developments at the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

It is worth mentioning that Yasir 'Arafat announced before leaving Algeria that Algiers will host the fifth Fatah conference and the 17th PNC session without naming the dates for them. WAFA reported that Yasir 'Arafat yesterday met with members of popular Palestinian organizations living in Algeria for a review of the current conditions in relation to the Palestinian problem and developments at the Palestinian and Arab levels. He confirmed during this meeting the continuation of the Palestinian revolution on the political and military fronts until the recovery of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat on PNC Convocation

LD281156 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers 28/03/84 (APS) — The general congress of the Fatah Palestinian movement and the 17th session of the Palestinian National Council (CNP-Parliament in exile) will be held in Algiers, M. Yasir 'Arafat president of the PLO Executive Committee declared during a talk with the Algerian news agency, APS.

"The Fatah revolutionary council, M.'Arafat declared, decided two years ago, during a meeting in Tunis, to convoke a Fatah general congress in a three month time, PLO president recalled. Two commissions resulting from the revolutionary council and the Fatah C.C. are working at the present time for the (?preparation) of this congress. The revolutionary council will (?hold a session) before the announcement of the date of the congress with precision".

"As to the national council, he added, meetings for preparations are held at the present time, notably with Palestinian organizations which have sided with Fatah to defend the independence of the Palestinian decision".

Regarding relations between PLO and the countries of the confrontation line, M. Yasir 'Arafat declared: "In spite of what has happened between us and the Syrian brothers during the Tripoli siege, we want to point out our availability to open a new page with the Syrian brothers.

"We have favourably greeted mediations of certain Arab brothers and certain brothers, we base ourselves on our conviction in the necessity of the mobilization of all efforts and the reinforcement of the Arab solidarity to face the American-Zionist plan which strives for dividing the Arab nation in short confessional states.

"This attempt constitutes an extremely complex danger for the whole Arab nation, which is to incite us to mobilize all the the energies to face this colonialist, confessionnal imperialist Zionist plan".

"In the same time, M.'Arafat indicated, we [word indistinct] resuming the dialogue with the Jordanian brothers, on the basis of the Palestinian National Council resolutions regarding this

matter. My last visit to Jordan, has been constructive and fruitful and it resulted in very important results indifferent fields".

"As to my visit to Cairo, the PLO president pointed out, it aimed at rallying Egypt to our cause so as it resumes its place in the confrontation against ennemies of the Arab nation after As-Sadat's success from keeping it away during a period. We will continue to work with the Egyptian people and its leaders, for the achievement of this objective".

"The Palestinian revolution continues to struggle side by side with Lebanese heroical fighters and for the liberation of the whole Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation".

Regarding the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon M. Yasir 'Arafat recalled that half of a million of Palestinians are living in this country and live in the most difficult conditions.

Concerning finally his visit in Algeria, 'Arafat indicated that he had "intense consultations with the Brother Chadli Bendjedid who reaffirmed Algeria's revolutionary position in its support to the just cause of the Palestinian people, PLO its unique and legimitate representative and its legitimate leaderships." Besides, M.'Arafat concluded, Algeria makes a great effort on all the plans and all the fields in favour of the Palestinian cause.

AL-WATAN Views PLO Reconciliation Efforts

GF271800 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 19

[Sattar Jabbar dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] What is happening within the Palestinian arena? Why is the Soviet Union at times resorting to silence in its relations with Yasir 'Arafat, while at other times criticizing him indirectly? Why are Salah Khaiaf (alias Abu Iyad), and Faruq Qaddumi (alias Abu Al-Lutf), keeping quiet about the reports on Palestinian-Syrian talks and about the so-called building of bridges between 'Arafat and Al-Asad? What are the facts about the Aden meetings and who called for them?

AL-WATAN took all these questions to Damascus and other capitals, and by contacting Palestinian officials succeeded in finding out the facts. Reports say that Soviet officials sent the following message to PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat on 10 February 1984:

"The Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee:
We have supported the PLO on the basis that it opposes imperialism. What is happening now? Anyone who is holding contacts with the regimes that support the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan has no contact with us, and is taking a course that leads to the acceptance of such plans. We warn you against making other dramatic steps, such as your visit to Egypt. Without Syria, the PLO cannot take one step forward.

"It is necessary to emphasize the importance of Palestinian unity and adhere to both the letter and spirit of the 16th session of the PNC. In this regard, we are opposed to your visit to Cairo. Such a matter cannot be ignored. The purpose of your struggle must be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and this is the basis we want."

Palestinian sources say that prior to Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Cairo, the gist of the stand of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] was that it is possible to redress the situation in the PLO with Yasir 'Arafat remaining as chairman, but that after the visit the PFLP and DFLP adopted decisive stands toward Yasir 'Arafat.

Prominent Palestinian sources in Damascus say: The present meeting in Aden is being held in response to a call from PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. PFLP Secretary General George Habash, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum, Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi, and the Syrian Communist Party were invited. Habash, Hawatimah and Hawi accepted the invitation. The Syrian Communist Party was represented by Daniel Ni'mah. Al-Fahum could not attend because he was preoccupied with other matters.

The Palestinian sources say that the current four-party meeting aims to adopt important decisions, such as the establishment of a unified national [wataniyah] front that will bring together all the factions of the Palestinian resistance under the PLO umbrella. The front will carry out the national tasks and act as a collective leadership. It was for this purpose that 4 days ago the PFLP sent Salih Ra'fat as its special envoy to Tunis to meet with Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], while the PFLP sent Salah Salah to Tunisia for the same reason.

The PFLP proposed that in order for the dialogue between them to be resumed, Fatah should put forward a working paper, and if the working paper is accepted then the PFLP and DFLP would be prepared to enter into a dialogue with some Fatah Central Committee members who reject some but not all of Yasir 'Arafat's policies. The Fatah Central Committee put forward a working paper through Salah Salah that was rejected by the PFLP. The DFLP has not yet responded to it.

As for the contacts which some Fatah Central Committee members held with Syrian officials to resume the dialogue and form a Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese front to resist Israeli aggression, the same Palestinian sources say that Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Damascus in February was within the same framework, but that Qaddumi did not bring to the Syrian leaders any specific proposals, but rather went to listen to them.

AL-WATAN has obtained the second part of the dialogue that took place between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq Qaddumi:

Faruq Qaddumi: I only came to hear what you have to say.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam: Our stand is well-known; we refuse to hold any meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. If the brother members of the Fatah Central Committee want to turn a new page [in relations with Syria], before coming to Damascus they must issue a statement condemning 'Arafat and his leadership, and then we can meet on a new basis.

The same sources say that Abu Iyad "met for 2 and 1/2 hours with 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait, and put to him views on PLO-Syrian relations." The sources say that Abu Iyad suggested to 'Isa Darwish that many Fatah Central Committee members condemn the majority of 'Arafat's recent political measures, and that they are prepared to go to Damascus to strengthen Arab solidarity and the PLO. During the meeting, Salah Khalaf identified the Fatah Central Committee members who support his proposals as Salim az-Za'nun (alias Abu al-Adib); Rafiq an-Natshah (alias Abu Shakir); Muhammad Ghunaym (alias Abu Mahir); Khalil al-Wazir (alias Abu Jihad); and Faruq Qaddumi (alias Abu al-Lutf).

As for Khalid al-Hasan, Abu Iyad said that he supports them. Abu Iyad said that he and his comrades do not want to take overt and strong measures that may bring about a great split in the PLO, which would be a tragedy to the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian sources believe that the reason for the refusal of Abu Iyad and a number of his colleagues to say what is happening now is this: an organization exists within Fatah; namely the organization of Yasir 'Arafat, who is the only man now supervising financial affairs and who has contacts with several countries that contribute funds to the PLO. The sources say that there will be important developments in the PLO in the coming days, and that these developments may lead to a total change in all the existing alliances in the Palestinian arena.

PLO Official 'Abbas on Ties With USSR, Syria

GF270937 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee member, by PLO central organ *FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH* — date not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpt] *FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH*: Earlier, you were on a visit to Moscow as a member of the Palestinian delegation which was led by Brother Abu 'Ammar, to the funeral of the deceased Soviet leader. We would like you to describe the meetings which were held with the Soviet comrades in particular, and with other delegations participating in the funeral.

Abu Mazin: Many meetings were held with heads of the delegations which came to extend condolences from various countries. We held meetings with President Castro, President Ziaul Haq, and with heads of delegations from Nicaragua, Mongolia, Argentina, Iraq and the Israeli Communist Party. A high-level meeting was held among Brother Abu 'Ammar, the CPSU Central Committee and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. It was a long and important meeting, during which all the important points and aspects of the Palestinian issue were discussed. Palestinian-Soviet relations, the means of strengthening and developing them, and future joint action were discussed. The two sides agreed on all the details.

We realized that one of the most important issues which worries the Soviet comrades is the issue of Palestinian national unity. They feel that it is their duty to assidously hold contacts with all the sides concerned in order to develop, to cement and to bolster this unity. They regard Palestinian national unity as a central issue in the life of the Palestinian revolution. They also regard the continuation of the functioning of the PLO's legitimate organizations — the Executive Committee, the Central Council and the National Council — as constituting a healthy sign for the Palestinian revolution. They also feel the need to bolster the legitimate PLO leadership under the leadership of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, the symbol of the Palestinian people and chairman of the PLO. [words indistinct]

Other points and political moves were discussed, including Abu 'Ammar's visit to Egypt, Palestinian-Jordanian relations, Palestinian-Arab relations, the conference of solidarity with the Palestinian people which will convene in Cairo, and other issues and subjects which concern us. A plan was set to continue coordination and consultation between us and the Soviet comrades.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH: In light of your talks in Moscow and in light of the readiness of more than one friendly side of Syria and the PLO [as heard], is there any planned move in the direction of ameliorating Syrian-Palestinian relations?

Abu Mazin: Despite what took place in Tripoli, Brother Abu 'Ammar stood up at the Islamic Conference in Casablanca and extended his hand to all the Arab leaders in order to forget the past and to turn over a new leaf. We repeatedly told our friends and comrades — who are keen to restore the relationship between us and Syria — that we are willing to immediately begin a dialogue with Syria, based on sound and vivid bases that accept the right of the PLO to freedom of movement, and bear in mind that the Palestinian issue is a national issue. When we talk about the Palestinian national resolution, we mean by that the resolution which is unanimously approved by the Arabs and not a unilateral resolution undertaken by us or by others. Therefore, on this basis, we extend our hand to Syria and the others.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH: Can we regard the departure of Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] for Damascus as evidence of some amelioration in these relations?

Abu Mazin: Brother Abu al-Lutf returned to Damascus because the headquarters of the Political Department is still in Damascus. His family is still in Damascus. His departure for Damascus is a sign of our good intentions. We ascertain our readiness to turn over a new leaf with the Syrian brothers. If they are ready for that, we will also be ready to send a high-level delegation to begin the dialogue.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH: The question about the relationship with Jordan has two parts. The first is: Is there any significance to the fact that Brother Hani al-Hasan visited the United States at the same time King Husayn was there? The second part is: What about the visit of Brother Abu 'Ammar, about which reports were circulated following his departure from Tripoli?

Abu Mazin: First, as for Hani al-Hasan, he had to go to the United States in order to follow up some of the issues with our

movement organization there. The U.S. Government had continuously denied him a visa, and even denied a visa to any brother of the leadership. But he got a visa and was allowed in the country. He went there to deliver lectures, to hold seminars, and to undertake an organizational role in the United States. His visit there has absolutely nothing to do with the visi' of King Husayn. If he wants to have talks with the king, he can meet him in Amman.

As for the visit of Brother Abu 'Ammar to Jordan, this visit comes within the framework of the visits undertaken by Brother Abu 'Ammar to the Arab, African and socialist countries. But Jordan has a distinguished role, owing to the intertwining Jordanian-Palestinian relations and interests, particularly as the PNC approved the establishment of a confederation between the independent Palestinian state and Jordan. I am sure that no agreement on a political solution will be forged during this visit since, as I said earlier, this is not the year of political solutions, and there is no evidence on the horizon on any such solutions. That is why we have to make the correct assessments of this visit.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH: Will Fatah ask the PNC to [word indistinct] the membership of these organizations? [which carried weapons against the PLO in Tripoli]

Abu Mazin: I would like to say that this issue is subject to the rules and regulations of the PNC. We regard those as being traitors who betrayed the Palestinian people. We will deal with them in accordance with the rules of the PNC. Every organization grouping or popular organization has the right to change its representatives in the PNC.

PLO's Al-Yahya Urges Support for Palestinians

JN271717 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, the PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan, has said that Israel is practicing a well-studied, organized policy toward the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories to turn those people into an unstable element and separate them from their land with the purpose of usurping the land.

At a press conference today, he added that by their decision to deport citizen 'Abd al-'Aziz Shahin from his homeland of Palestine, the Israeli occupation authorities are trying to create difficult living conditions to shake the steadfastness of the Arab citizens on their land, destroy their morale, and force them to emigrate. Al-Yahya also announced that is time for the world to adopt an objective policy toward the Middle East, based on the understanding that the Palestinian question is the basis, and that the Palestinian people's rights are the core of the cause. He added that without achieving this, the region will never achieve stability, pointing out that all that is taking place in the region is due to the failure to find a solution to the Palestinian cause.

He also called on the organizations and international bodies to support the Palestinian people to confirm their support for human rights and peace. He also called on the Arab countries to settle their differences and close their ranks to confront Israeli ambitions. He explained that since their occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, the Israeli occupation authorities have deported more than 3,000 Arab citizens.

PLF Condemns Plans for PNC Meeting Under 'Arafat

JN271958 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA) — The Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] has condemned the attempts by Palestinian rightists under Yasir 'Arafat to hold a PNC session and wrap it with legitimacy.

In a press statement it issued today, the PLF declared its rejection of the PNC's planned meeting through the policy of relinquishment and deviation. The PLF affirmed that it will not commit itself to the resolutions of any session which 'Arafat may hold in the name of the PNC.

Seminar on Palestinian-Jordanian Relations Begins

JN271610 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA) — A seminar on Palestinian-Jordanian relations held by the *AT-TA'MIM* magazine of the Fatah movement was opened today in Damascus.

The opening was attended by Comrade Hasan 'Ajaj, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Jordan branch; Samih Abu Quwayq, member of the leadership of the revolutionary uprising in the Fatah movement; Sadiq ash-Shafi'i, PFLP Political Bureau member; a large number of Arab, Syrian and Palestinian journalists; and men of letters.

At the opening ceremony, Abu Quwayq made a speech in which he denounced the confederation plan, the Reagan plan, and the attempts to usurp the individual identity of Palestinian representation. He also condemend 'Arafat's visit to the Egyptian regime and his deviation from the line of national Palestinian struggle. Abu Quwayq praised the heroic steatfastness of Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese National Forces against all the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plans.

Concluding his speech, he called for strengthening the cohesion among Syria, the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement, and the Jordanian national movement toward liberation and unity.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

JN271800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance fighters have carried out a daring and heroic military operation against a Zionist military patrol while it was passing near Tyre in southern Lebanon. The resistance men detonated, by remote control, an explosive charge which resulted in destroying the patrol and killing or wounding its personnel. A Zionist army command spokesman acknowledged the operation and claimed that only two soldiers were wounded. He added that the Israeli

forces immediately besieged the area and began searching for the attackers, who returned to their base safely.

Another group of resistance fighters attacked another Israeli ilitary patrol near the main entry point of An-Nabatiyah. The number of casualties resulting from this attack is not yet known, due to the siege imposed by the occupation forces in the area.

It has been reported that another Zionist military patrol was subjected to an attack by resistance fighters near the Az-Zahrani River in southern Lebanon yesterday. Using machine guns and rocket shells, the resistance men killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers in the attack.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Assesses Regional Developments

GF272026 Doha QNA in Arabic 1203 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 27 Mar (QNA) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah has stated that the GCC has now emerged in a political form, and is now capable of realizing more economic targets and citizens' interests.

On the subject of whether the citizens of GCC countries will be permitted to possess Bahraini bank shares in the future, the Bahraini prime minister told today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH* that the subject was under study, pointing out that there already exists in Bahrain a Kuwaiti-Bahraini bank, and a Saudi-Bahraini bank.

Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah also commented on the Iraqi-Iranian war, and said that there will be no winner; the only losers are the children of this region.

On the subject of what effect the Bahraini-Saudi causeway will have on the Bahraini economy, Shaykh Khalifah said that this historic event will effect many changes, and that Bahrain will have an economic revival when the causeway is opened.

Egyptian Initiative on Gulf War Praised

GF280925 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has said Egypt's request to hold an emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in order to discuss definite proposals to end the Iraqi-Iranian war is a good initiative that is worth encouragement.

The paper pointed out that what increases the importance of the Egyptian proposals is Egypt's political leverage and its diplomatic experience — being a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. The paper went on to say: "If these proposals get the backing of this movement, which represents the Third World countries, then these proposals will get great momentum, which we hope will eventually lead to ending this war."

The paper reviewed the stages of the Gulf war and the various mediation efforts by the international community and friendly countries, and emphasized that this is the optimum time for ensuring fruitful mediation efforts. The paper said that it has become a fact that a military solution is nonexistent, because Iraq — through the men and the weapons it possess — is potently capable of defending its territory. The waves of Iranian offensives have broken down one after another as a result of the unshakable, firm Iraqi defenses. Moreover, the failure of the Iranian onslaughts will affect the internal arena, thus making the Iranian leaders unable to go ahead with their attacks indefinitely.

In conclusion, the paper expressed hope that Iran will respond positively to the new initiative of the Nonaligned Movement, and regarded it an appropriate way out of this militarily stymied situation.

KUWAIT

Algerian Envoy Messaadia Received by Amir

LD281257 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, was received this morning by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

The meeting, which was attended by Brother Khaldi al-Hasnaoui, the Algerian ambassador to Kuwait and Bahrain, dealt with recent developments in the Arab world, relations between the two fraternal countries, and ways to consolidate them. During the meeting, Brother Messaadia handed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, to the amir of Kuwait.

It is expected that Brother Messaadia will meet today with the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, and then with the deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, before leaving Kuwait this evening for Bahrain.

AL-QABAS Says Rumsfeld Mission Will Fail

LD271352 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 28 (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* on Tuesday said U.S. Presidential Envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who is currently touring the region, has nothing new to sell and will fail to persuade Arab Gulf states of the American Administration's good faith.

Rumsfeld has no excuses to justify Washington's "blatant bias" towards Israel as manifested in President Reagan's refusal to sell rockets to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the paper said in an editorial less than 24 hours after the envoy's departure from Kuwait to Iraq. The envoy's visit to the region, according to the paper, reflects the impasse the American-Arab ties have reached regarding the U.S. failure to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question or the Iran-Iraq war.

"During his visit to the Arab Gulf countries, Rumsfeld must have been told that these states realize the U.S. could have halted the Gulf war, if it really wanted to — at least stopping direct or indirect arms supplies through Israel to one side of the conflict," *Al-QABAS* said.

The paper concluded that the Arabs should now make America listen to a harsh tone, saying the Arabs of the Gulf are now discovering their powers and are aware they have other options to recognize a friend from an enemy.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Questions Rumsfeld Objectives

GF271324 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Mar (WAKH) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* today questioned the true nature of the tour by U.S. special envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who has refused to make statements and only said that he was coming to the region to listen to others.

The paper said that it is certain Rumsfeld heard from the Kuwaiti leadership during his visit to Kuwait about the policies of his country — which are hostile toward the Arabs. The paper indicated that Kuwait has always complained about the prominent U.S. position, which is antagonistic toward the Arabs. In confronting this U.S. position — which is biased toward Israel — Kuwait was very clear in informing Rumsfeld that the Arabs will not accept a destructive U.S. policy.

In conclusion, the paper editorially questioned what Rumsfeld wants to listen to. For 40 years, the United States and the Western countries acted in opposition to what they heard from the Arabs. The Arabs have asked it to maintain a balanced stand of moderation, while it responded by being totally biased toward Israel, which reached the reached the point of proclaiming a strategic alliance with it.

PDRY

Joint Committee With YAR Ends First Session

YAR Officials Depart

GF271414 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The northern side of the homeland's representative's to the Joint Foreign Policy Committee — which was led by Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani, deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation — left Aden today after the conclusion of the first session of the committee. The committee concluded its meetings in Aden yesterday.

Committee Issues Press Statement

GF271614 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text of press statement on the meetings of the Joint Foreign Policy Committee of the two parts of the homeland, issued in Aden 27 March — read by announcer]

[Text] The Joint Foreign Policy Committee of the two parts of the homeland held its first session under the chairmanship of Brothers Muhammad 'Ali 'Inayah, deputy foreign minister in the southern part of the homeland; and Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary in the northern part of the homeland, in Aden 23-26 March.

In a fraternal atmosphere and with a sense and spirit of historic responsibility — following the instructions of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland — and according to the results of the Yemeni Council meetings in its first and second session, the committee discussed the issue of cooperation and coordination between the two foreign ministries in the foreign policy field, to secure joint stances by the two parts toward Arab and international developments.

Brothers Muhammad 'Ali 'Inayah and Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani expressed their satisfaction with the positive results and the fraternal atmosphere which prevailed the meetings.

QATAR

Algerian Envoy Messaadia Continues Visit

Amir Receives Bendjedid Message

GF271124 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has received a message from his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with current Arab and international issues, and a number of issues of mutual concern.

The message was conveyed by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, a member of the Political Bureau and an official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front, during his meeting with the amir at Doha Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, minister of labor and social affairs, and Mohamed Bergham, Algerian ambassador in Doha.

Envoy Comments on Mission

GF271322 Doha QNA in Arabic 1219 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 27 Mar (QNA) — Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front who is currently visiting Doha, has praised the fraternal relations between Qatar and Algeria, and described them as relations of friendship and appreciation.

In a statement to QNA, he said that his visit to Qatar comes within a tour he is currently making of the region to convey messages from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to the heads of the region's states. Asked about the efforts and mediations being made by Algeria at the present time to organize a relationship among the various Palestinian resistance factions under the PLO flag, and about the results of these efforts, the Algerian official said that Algeria, together with all the Arab countries, works for the unity of the Palestinian revolution for the sake of the fatal question, which is the Palestinian question. He pointed

out that Algeria always lends its hand, along with all other sincere efforts, in order to preserve the gains of the Arab nation as a whole, and consequently the gains of the Palestinian revolution.

Answering a question on Algerian mediation to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and on the results of this mediation, the Algerian official said that this matter concerns all those who are sincere, and all those who love peace and security. He indicated that Algeria is participating with many parties in this effort and in this direction, and stressed that Algeria is fully prepared to participate in finding a peaceful and permanent solution.

He denied recent reports on the existance of a proposed Algerian plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. He pointed out that Algeria has no prepared plan in this regard, "but we will proceed with our efforts which were, still are, and will remain for the purpose of ending this war."

Bahraini Heir Apparent Departs for Home

GF271340 Doha QNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 27 Mar (QNA) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Doha at noon today following a 2-day private visit to the State of Qatar at the invitation of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, who was prominent among those who saw him off at Doha International Airport.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld's Tour Assessed

LD271554 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Muhammad Ja'far al-Ghafiqi commentary]

[Excerpts] Observers have been following Donald Rumsfeld's current tour in the area with extreme interest, in view of America's timing of this tour, which comes in the wake of important changes witnesssed by the area in recent days. Rumsfeld's visit is also important because it covers a large number of countries in the area, a fact which gave observers the impression that the results of the tour were of importance to the Americans, who want to discover the facts about the new developments in the Middle East region. This interest is interpreted as a new American attitude toward the area.

The American envoy has visited a number of countries, during which he centered his discussions on three main issues: the Middle East problem, the Lebanese crisis and the Iraqi-Iranian war. These, undoubtedly, are the most important issues of both the area and the world.

As for the Middle East problem, of which the Palestine question is the core and essence, the tour of the American envoy has come at a time when the Israeli enemy persists with his defiance of international public opinion through his insistence on continuing with his arbitrary Judaization measures in the occupied territory, despite the international call for the Zionist enemy to stop these measures, which threaten peace and stability not only in the Middle East but also throughout world. It is recalled that the American President's inititiative for peace in the Middle East called, inter alia, for the halting of the establishment of Israeli settlements and the freezing of the existing ones. But as is known, Israel again rejected this and other peace initiatives put forward for the restoration of peace in the area.

Thus, the visit of the American envoy comes at a time when Israeli defiance of the international public has reached its peak under the aegis of the Israeli policy of aborting all attempts, from whatever source, for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

The American envoy's tour also coincides wit the bill now before Congress which provides for the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Arab Jerusalem, which is still under occupation. The Zionist pressure groups in Congress are seeking to insure the passage of this bill, but the American Administration opposes this. This has been affirmed by President Reagan himself in his message to King Hassan II, the monarch of Morocco, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and ICO chairman, in reply to the message of the Moroccan king in which he called for witholding support for Israeli measures aimed at changing the character and status of Jerusalem.

Undoubtedly, this matter enjoys Arab and Islamic importance and is being followed by the Arab and Islamic quarters through their intense efforts to foil the Zionist attempts in this regard. This importance has been reflected in the coordination efforts taking place in the Arab and Islamic arenas, so that the Islamic countries would take the necessary practical measures to support the Arab rights as well as Islamic rights in occupied Jerusalem.

Undoubtedly, the Arab and Islamic worlds hope the American Administration will not submit to the pressures of the Zionist lobby's blackmail. For this reason, the tour of the American envoy to Arab capitals acquires particular importance, as the American envoy will receive further Arab assertions on the gravity of the acceptance of this measure by Congress, not only for Arab and Islamic relations with the United States, but also for efforts for peace in the region.

Concerning the Lebanese crisis, it seems that the American envoy is trying, through his tour, to explain the role the United States can play with respect to this crisis, particularly after the withdrawal of the Multinational Force, including the American contingent. Observers believe that the American envoy is trying to affirm the American concept of peace in Lebanon, particularly following reports on the reduction of the American role, which international circles consider to be a retraction of the American policy in Lebanon. Thus, Washington's reassumption of its role in Lebanon should stem from the premise of bolstering Lebanese national reconciliation efforts and of working to secure a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories, particularly as the presence of the enemy forces in Lebanon constitutes one of the most important obstacles that must be removed before Lebanon can regain its security and stability.

With regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war — one of the issues the American envoy has tackled in his discussions — it seems the United States is trying to assess the latest developments and the attitudes of various countries. What is certain is that the world — particularly the countries capable of influencing events — are required to exert further efforts to put a halt to this destructive war, the effect of which is not restricted to the area alone but also to the international arena.

The tour of the American envoy is no more than a fact-finding tour, but despite this it gives a clear indication of a greater American interest in following the course of events in the area.

Fahd Receives Message From Oman's Sultan Qabus

LD271536 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] This afternoon in his office at the Royal Court, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Yahya Mahfuz al-Mandhuri, minister of education in Oman and envoy of Omani Sultan Qabus, who handed his majesty a message from his brother Sultan Qabus.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard; and Minister of Education Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir.

King Fahd Discusses Compulsory Military Service

LD271343 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's open dialogue with the teaching staff and students of the King Faysal University in the eastern region, on 25 March — recorded]

[Excerpts][Unidentified speaker] Your Majesty, all Saudi youth aspire to offer all they can in the service of the king and the homeland. I am one of those ambitious youths. I request your majesty to give us an idea about the progress made regarding compulsory conscription, or what is known as national military service, and what form this will take.

[Fahd] In fact, the question is indeed important. I thank the questioner very much. This proves the great sincerity of the questioner and undoubtedly of the other students in this or other universities, and indeed of all citizens.

Undoubtedly, serving the homeland militarily is one of the greatest duties for defending the Islamic creed and the homeland. As is known, military conscription has been abolished in many of the highly developed countries. This is for several reasons: first, citizens are expected to automatically respond when they are asked, or the competent authorities declare a need for large numbers of the nation's sons to join the national military service. This national service could be in the National Guard; at the Ministry of Defense; or at the Ministry of the Interior, which is comprised of several scientific branches that need the services of the sons of the homeland.

The idea of national military conscription is still being studied by the Cabinet. This is to determine the best way to follow: should conscription be compulsory or should certain quarters perform this honorable duty? This is being studied for several reasons: first, in my own personal view — and here I am talking about the word compulsory -- compulsory conscription is a national duty, no doubt. However, I do not wish to give preference to any of the ideas under consideration at present by the Cabinet, or specify which is the best.

However, I have my own personal opinion in this regard for several reasons. First, as we all know, Saudi citizens are now, fortunately, at an extremely high level of culture. The type of weapons that existed 30 or 40 years ago could have been easy to use or to learn to use. However, the development that the world has witnessed in the field of arms — whether air, land or sea — is different from the way things were in the past. Thus, joining military service cannot be governed by compulsory methods, for there may be some people who are unable to understand the nature of weapons. Conditions may make it advisable to have only qualified people join the military service. As I said, these people would be educationally qualified at least up to the secondary level, people who have succeeded in developing themselves so they are able to understand the types of weapons.

I believe that as far as our sons in the secondary schools or equal educational institutions or universities are concerned, it is a great honor for them to perform military service when asked to do so. Hence, I have said and repeat once more here that the way modern weapons are used today differs completely from the way they were used in the past. For this reason, we hope that this coming year, or the coming months, will enable the members of the Council of Ministers to discern which of the ways is the best. Naturally, such an issue cannot be based on improvisation, but on scientific foundation.

When matters crystalize, and a section of the people are called upon to join, I believe that this section or sections will be only too happy to be invited by their government to perform a religious and national duty. I hope we will be able to decide on the best way, God willing. [applause]

UAE

Algerian Visitor Views Gulf War Mediation

GF270912 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 27 Mar (WAM) — Algeria has affirmed its adherence to the mediation it is undertaking between Iran and Iraq in order to end the war currently taking place between them. Algeria also asserted its insistence on eliminating the dangers of foreign interference in the Gulf region.

In a statement published in the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and an official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front, said that the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war threatens the Gulf region with the danger of foreign interference, which could "make the Palestinian issue and the Lebanese question seem like minor issues in

international relations." He pointed out that some sides have tried to obviate Algeria's continued mediation in the Iraqi-Iranian war. He added that these sides benefit from the continuation of this war, indicating that the death of the former Algerian foreign minister and the crash of his plane — during the launching of the Algerian efforts to stop this war — were attempts to prevent Algeria from playing its role.

Messaadia called on the Arab confrontation countries to ensure further coordination in their stances and to achieve solidarity. He also criticized the bringing of foreign forces to the Arab territories, stressing that this constitutes a grave threat to the fate of Arab security.

KHALEEJ TIMES Urges Equal Rights for Arab Women

GF271137 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Women and Work: Equal Rights"]

[Text] The third regional conference of women of the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, which was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi on Saturday by the president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, comes shortly after the world-wide observance of International Women's Day. It comes also as part of the buildup to the International Conference of Women in Nairobi next year, which will officially mark the end of the UN Decade of Women 1976-85.

Thus, the Abu Dhabi meeting falls into a certain international context and underlines the fact that the Arab women's movement for emancipation is part of a wider struggle that characterizes almost all countries of the Third World, where women's rights often have to be balanced against tradition and entrenched male ideas of what is right for women and what is not. Fortunately, most Arab countries, building on the place of dignity unequivocally given to women in the Islamic Shariah, have been able to make great progress in providing equal opportunities to women in many fields.

In the Gulf countries, the gains seem particularly striking, considering the short time in which they have been achieved. In the UAE, for instance, it has been just 13 years since the federation was established, but, as Shaykh Zayid pointed out in his inaugural address to the Abu Dhabi conference, women have already been given equal rights in education and steps have been taken to enable them to play an active part in the country's development. He told the delegates that he considered women's role to be a noble one, and said that he would strive to see that their aspirations to improve their position in society were fulfilled. The president's wife, Her Highness Shaykha Fatima, who has been an indefatigable worker for the cause as president of the UAE Women's Federation, echoed this theme in her speech to the conference, stating that the women of the UAE had proven themselves fully capable of shouldering the responsibilities entrusted to them, both as mothers and as members of society.

Quite rightly, the emphasis in the UAE and elsewhere in the Gulf so far has been on providing educational opportunities to women on a par with those available to men. Almost half the graduates from the UAE university at Al-'Ayn, significantly, are women. It is recognized that education can be pivotal in not merely equipping women to undertake jobs, but also in raising the level of their consciousness with regard to their social, economic and political rights.

However, despite the advancement in education, the percentage of illiteracy among women continues to be much greater than that for men, and women still constitute but a small percentage of the total Arab work force. Part of the reason for the latter may be that many educated and capable women are inexorably sucked into domestic life and find themselves unable to cope with the demands both of outside work and work at home. This is a common enough phenomenon almost everywhere, and it can only be more so in comparatively affluent societies where the need for a second income is less. It is good to find that the subject is receiving attention at the conference, and suggestions are being considered as to how more women can be enabled to combine a job with their house-keeping duties, and thus lessen the overall dependence upon foreign workers.

Since the theme of the conference is 'Women and Work,' it should be hoped that the entire question of employment will be thoroughly discussed and concrete recommendations made to enable Arab women to realize their full potential. Some thought should also be given to recognizing that not every girl can go to a university, even in materially well-endowed societies like ours, and not every woman can become a doctor or a teacher. Short educational courses, particularly in rural areas, can equip many women to become good social workers and motivators, working, in a milieu which they understand, for the welfare of their community. Even housewives who do not wish to work can be persuaded to participate in training courses and joint in welfare projects.

There is no doubt that the deliberations of the conference in Abu Dhabi will stimulate thinking in many directions and lead to a fuller participation of women in day-to-day life. Arab women have already proven, in the struggle for Palestine and in Lebanon and Iraq, that they are fired by the same ideals as men, and they deserve to be accorded the same rights.

Briefs

Dubayy Imports Increase — Dubayy's import trade has overcome the slackness experienced in 1982, and despite worldwide recession, imports last year rose by about Dh 692 million. At Dh 19.557 billion, imports in 1983 were Dh 121 million lower than the figure for 1981, but the reversal of an unprecedented drop of Dubayy's imports has raised hopes of a revival in trade and increased confidence in the Emirate's role as an entrepot serving the entire Gulf region. In 1982, for the first time, Dubayy's imports went down by a little over four per cent, casting a shadow over the Emirate's continued growth as a regional center for trading within the Gulf. The increase last year will serve as a good augury for current efforts to take advantage of the formation of the AGCC and boost trade among its member-states. [Excerpts] [Dubayy *KHALEEJ TIMES* in English 27 Mar 84 p 1 GF]

Reportage on Visit of Malian President Traore

Official Talks Begin 27 Mar

NC271036 Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Official talks opened here today between President Husni Mubarak and the visiting President of Mali Moussa Traore, with members of the Egyptian and Mali delegations attending.

The Egyptian delegation includes Premier Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

The Mali delegation comprises several high-level officials including Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Alioune Blondin Beye, and Minister of Planning Ahmed Ag Hamani.

Following the forty-five minute plenary session, President Mubarak and his guest, President Traore, held a private meeting, while members of the two delegations continued their talks.

Mubarak, Traore Exchange Speechs

NC271840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a luncheon this afternoon at Al-Qubbah Palace in honor of Malian President Moussa Traore and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; and deputy prime ministers and ministers.

The banquet opened with a minute of silence to the memory of the great African leader Ahmed Sekou Toure, late president of Guinea.

Both presidents exchanged speeches during the banquet. Following is the text of Mubarak's speech:

Dear brother, President Moussa Traore, Mrs Traore, dear brothers, I am glad to welcome you here, on the good land of Egypt. I welcome you as brothers and comrades, as partners along the road of the African and human struggle for lofty principles. We have always been faithful companions in the immortal Islamic march for a world free of fear, evil, and oppression; a world ruled by peace, truth, and justice; a world relieved of exploitation, domination, and hegemony.

Our people — a people who appreciate civilization and contribute to it — treasure your role in this respect. For centuries, your people have played a great role in spreading civilization in West Africa and in hoisting the flag of Islam there. That was the time when Mali was a major Islamic empire disseminating cultural and spiritual inspiration, and when its capital Timbuktu was both a commercial and intellectual center.

Mali's people have shouldered a great responsibility since the 13th century in accommodating the interests, ideas, and beliefs of various tribes and communities. Mali was a shining model of civilization and culture — a place where spiritual values, intellectual renaissance, and commercial transactions witnessed a harmonious boom. In accomplishing all of this, Mali's people were establishing a legacy of self respect and respect for others, a legacy of belief in creative coexistence and avoidance of fanaticism and oppression.

We believe in the need to begin strengthening relations and intensifying cooperation among the southern states which have common interests that transcend their disputes. If we are incapable of achieving this rapprochement, and the intertwined interests within our one family, then we will be unable to deal with the outside world with firm steps, reassured hearts, and a clear vision that will surely lead us to our legitimate aims and vital interests after centuries of suffering, deprivation, and exploitation.

Brothers, we cannot remain idle vis-a-vis the bloody conflicts taking place among Third World states in which they are squandering their human capabilities and natural resources, using their forces to destroy each other, and upsetting each other's security and stability. We have before us the Iranian-Iraqi war which is now in its 4th year, and in which ferocious battles are raging and escalating without any sensible and logical justification or basis. Therefore, Egypt has taken it upon itself to urge the Nonaligned Movement to immediately undertake intensive efforts with the two parties to end the war and enter into negotiations to settle all their disputes.

I informed Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi a few days ago that we have specific proposals that we would like to submit during a foreign ministers' conference that should convene as soon as possible with a view to emerging from the conflict's vicious circle, and persuading the two parties to accept a peaceful settlement without preconditions. We have no doubt that you completely support us in this positive move which has become increasingly necessary following a deterioration in the situation as a result of an escalation of the war in such a regrettable manner.

Meanwhile, we feel distressed when we see nonaligned states engaging in practices which foreign powers resort to when interfering in the internal affairs of other states in order to upset their security and stability. We recently saw how the Libyan Government resorted to threatening Sudan's safety and security instead of being a support for it and a force buttressing it. This is a stand that is contrary to all the national concepts and aims of the struggle. That stand is tantamount to a setback fraught with dangers for the nonaligned peoples' march. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to confront this behavior with the required resolve and determination because attaching little importance to it will jeopardize the destinies of the peoples. It is an unforgivable sin and crime that no one can tolerate, and each one of us must bear the consequences of his actions and sins.

Would it not be better for us to direct our efforts toward removing colonialism from every inch of our Arab and African territory and making certain that the intentions that the minority racist regime in South Africa is demonstrating for reconciliation are not mere maneuvers intended to gain time. Pressure must con-

tinue to be exerted on this regime by all African states, and not only the confrontation states, until that regime responds to the will of the international community and agrees to unconditionally implement Security Council Resolution No 435.

Isn't it more worthwhile that all of us dedicate our joint effortsto serving our pan-Arab and Islamic causes and to confronting the thoughtless attempts of certain irresponsible quarters to jeopardize the rights of the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians in the city of Jerusalem in pursuit of cheap gains and narrow selfish aims?

We commend the firm stand taken by President Reagan's administration and its rejection of the outbidding triggered by the fever of the election campaign and the disregard shown by some quarters to international commitments and norms. That group must realize it is subjecting its country's interest to immense danger and great jeopardy if it continues to fail to differentiate between matters, where differences and competition are permissible, and rights and legal conditions that should be respected and taken into consideration. So, let me warn and caution. Forewarned is forearmed.

The Arab and Islamic nations should close their ranks and decide to support the fraternal Palestinian people and enable them to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of their national entity that will express their distinctive identity and independent will within the framework of a comprehensive and just peace. This peace will enable all peoples of the area to live in security and peace, and allow the borders between them to become windows for communication and exchange, and not places for barbed wire, mines, and hostile actions.

Egypt has taken the initial steps on the road to a comprehensive peace, and is determined to make these steps a success and complement them by reaching a settlement to the Palestinian issue in which the Palestinian people will participate through their representative, the PLO. There will be no peace without respect for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and no negotiations without the participation of the people — the owner of the land, who have right on their side.

Dear brothers, the relations between our two countries and two peoples are excellent and are an example of cooperation and solidarity among peoples struggling for God's sake and justice, and who are on the road to love and kindness. We intend to intensify this cooperation in all fields and take it to new horizons that will open a new chapter in relations among African and Islamic states.

I take this opportunity to express to Brother President Moussa Traore and to the fraternal Malian people our gratitude and deep appreciation for the stand you adopted at the recent Islamic conference in support of right, not only from the standpoint of the special relationship between us, but first and foremost from the standpoint of faith in principles and loyalty to justice.

The loyal Egyptian people will not forget the good deeds African leader and hero Ahmed Sekou Toure did for them and for the whole Islamic nation. This great leader, whom God chose to take near him, continued to struggle for God's sake and justice. He was a unique person by all standards, who left a clear footprint in the march of the Third World, as well as a huge and immortal heritage that will not be erased by time and will continue to guide coming generations and illuminate the road for them.

Allow me to ask you to stand to salute dear friend Moussa Traore, his wife, all the friends attending, and the entire fraternal Malian people, and to greet the close ties between the two countries and peoples. May God's peace and mercy be with you.

Malian President Moussa Traore replied in the following speech:

Your Excellency Mr President, dear brother, ladies and gentlemen.

I was extremely touched by the words of welcome you addressed to me. I would like to express to your excellency my sincere thanks for the warm welcome you accorded us and our accompanying delegation. On this occasion, I would like to express to Your Excellency the gratitude of our people, the Malian People's Democratic Union Party, the Malian Government, and my own gratitude for your honorable invitation. This invitation was a convenient opportunity for bolstering understanding between our two peoples. Ever since the Malian Republic attained independence, it established relations of friendship and cooperation with Egypt on the basis of a rapprochement woven by our peoples' long history.

It gives me pleasure to address my extreme gratitude to the fraternal Egyptian people, their party, and government for the valuable help and support they have given to our development efforts.

Mr President: Today, we are witnessing a continuous deterioration in international relations. The centers of this tension are increasing, thus creating an unprecedented economic crisis. World peace and security are threatened. The Middle East is considered a major source of anxiety, and the Palestinian problem also represents a major source of this anxiety.

The establishment of a durable and just peace in the area requires an unconditional and complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and the Palestinian people's recovery of their national rights which they will not relinquish.

The situation in Lebanon and the struggle of the brothers in Iraq and Iran are sources of tension that seriously threaten the sovereignty, independence, and unity of this area's states. We greatly appreciate the personal efforts you exerted to find a just solution to these problems. On our part, the state of Mali is continuing its efforts to bolster peace and independence, two factors necessary for our peoples' development.

The situation in southern Africa is characterized by South Africa's haughtiness which is continuing its domination over Namibia, and on which it is applying its racist policy in defiance of the international community.

The problems of the Western Sahara and Chad are also considered sources of anxiety and represent a serious threat to the unity

and stability of our continent. There is no doubt that the OAU is encountering certain difficulties. However, we must all agree that the OAU is a distinguished instrument that has no substitute for bolstering the independence of our young countries. It is also necessary for the coordinated development of our peoples because our peoples are linked by a common destiny. In view of these unsuitable conditions, it is incumbent on us to further strengthen our solidarity and make our joint cooperation an effective instrument of development. Our mutual commitment to the nonaligned policy undoubtedly represents a decisive factor for bolstering peace and security in the world.

Mr President: These are some of the sources of anxiety in which we would like you to participate with us. [sentence as received] We shall continue our efforts relentlessly until we find a just solution to these questions in order to participate in bolstering understanding and friendship among peoples. On the basis of our complete understanding of the importance you personally attach to safeguarding peace and understanding among nations, I am certain our discussions will make it possible for us to reach a better understanding of the ways to extend the hand of assistance to the peoples of Mali and Egypt in their battle for the sake of peace and the stabilization of international relations on new bases.

Ladies and gentlemen: Allow me to ask you to drink a toast to the health of my brother and friend, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to the welfare of the fraternal people of Egypt, to the cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Mali Republic, and to the strengthening of the unity of the Islamic world and African unity. Thank you.

Reaction, Contacts on Death of Guinean President

Mubarak Condolence Cable Noted

NC272000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has sent the following message of condolence to Guinea's Prime Minister Dr Lansana Beavogui over the death of Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure:

I have received with grief and sorrow the news of late President Sekou Toure's death. The late president devoted his life to the service of his country and people. Leading the Guinea struggle for liberty and independence, Sekou Toure secured startling accomplishments for his country and people in every realm.

Speaking for myself and for the Egyptian people, I express our utmost sympathy over the death of this determined struggler.

Sekou Toure was a kind brother and dear friend of ours, who stood by our side in every battle we fought in defense of right, justice, and peace. I pray God will help you and your people endure this loss.

Ghali Comments on Death

NC271430 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said the death of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure is a big loss for the world. He added that Egypt has lost a friend and comrade who stood by her side when others abandoned her, and supported her in her military and diplomatic confrontations.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt would not forget the leading role Sekou Toure played last January, and which led to the resumption of Egypt's role and activity in the Islamic Unity Organisation.

Dr Ghali said Sekou Toure stood beside the Palestinians rights and denounced policies of expansionism and aggression.

He devoted his efforts and time to halt fighting between Iran and Iraq.

The Egyptian state minister added that Sekou Toure died while exerting big efforts to rescue the Organisation of African Unity, and to defend its principles and charter.

Dr Ghali further said that the late Guinean president started his struggle thirty years ago for African freedom and independence, adding that Guinea played a pioneering role under his leadership to lay the basis of Islamic solidarity and unity.

Mamduh Salim to Funeral

NC281006 Cairo MENA in English 0955 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 28 (MENA) — Presidential aide Mamduh Salim will head Egypt's delegation to the funeral of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure on behalf of President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people. The delegation will leave later today for Conakry.

Week of Mourning Announced

NC272036 Cairo MENA in English 1757 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Egypt announced a week of mourning over the death of Guinean President Sekou Toure.

'Ali on Condition for Return of Envoy to Israel

JN271504 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] London, March 27 (MENA) — Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon remains a basic and major condition for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. He said Egypt is not ready to see "another West Bank" in southern Lebanon.

In an interview with the London-based, Arabic-language newspaper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* today, Hasan 'Ali said the dispute over Tabah is covered by the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. All that is needed is to reactivate contacts in order to reach a settlement, even through arbitration, he said.

On the Iranian-Iraqi war, the Egyptian official said that Egypt has long been engaged in diplomatic efforts to halt the war. As regards the Iranian-Iraqi war, the Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that the Egyptian drive aims at bringing this war to a halt and reaching an agreement in this respect. The Egyptian official lauded Iraq's positive stances toward solving this dispute peacefully, adding that Iraq has an active role through its proposals and its acceptance of mediation efforts and initiatives by some countries. Iraq's stance should be appreciated and supported, 'Ali said.

On Iran's attitude towards mediation efforts, 'Ali said that it was disappointing to the Islamic and international communities, and so a decision was undertaken to support Iraq to help it defend its entity and territories against repeated attempts to break through its frontlines.

On Egyptian-Arab relations, Hasan 'Ali said that if there was no consensus on the return of Arab solidarity, there would be no need to embarrass anyone, especially as the Egyptian-Arab relation at the bilateral level is going on very well with most Arab countries. He referred in this regard to the Arab League which he said it would take some time by some Arab countries and not all as the majority of Arab countries wish that Arab solidarity had been restored. [sentence as received]

UN Delegate Addresses Council on Omdurman Attack

NC272035 Cairo MENA in English 1910 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] United Nations, March 27 (MENA) — Egypt told the U.N. Security Council today that it stands firmly alongside the Sudan to repel any aggression on it. Egypt's chief delegate Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil said in the Security Council debate on the Libyan air raid on Omdurman: "Egypt would like to affirm before the Council its full support for the fraternal Sudan in application of its commitment according to the joint defence agreement between the two countries in repelling aggression." "Egypt and the Sudan are observing the situation very closely to foil any attempt to interfere in the Sudan's internal affairs or to launch an aggression on it, and to defeat any external schemes against its security."

He added that Egypt backs up the Sudan's call on the Security Council to stand by the U.N Charter and international law against the policy of aggression or interference in others internal affairs.

Source Denies 'Opening' of Borders With Libya

NC271802 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — An official source said reports by some circles on the opening of ground, naval, and air borders between Egypt and Libya as from Thursday [29 March] are totally untrue, as such a measure is not to be taken unilaterally and in this manner. He added it should be preceded by agreement between the two countries within the framework of serious and responsible action emerging from a genuine wish to foster communication bridges and interaction between the peoples who belong to one nation.

The official source told MENA that Egypt was the first to call for good neighbourly relations and cooperation among Arab countries sharing common borders.

Egypt also called for abiding by the provisions of the law and rules of behaviour in dealings between governments with the aim of rapprochement among the Arab peoples and expanding the circle of cooperation and integration among them.

The source added that the people of Egypt, who are bound with the Libyan people by special ties, aspire to the day when relations between the two countries are placed in their right frame and negative practices disappear.

Mubarak Receives Malaysian Sultan of Selangor

NC281017 Cairo MENA in English 0954 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 28 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today Salaheddin Abdul Aziz, the sultan of Malaysian State "Selangor" with Malaysian ambassador here Abdoullah Zawawi attending.

The sultan of Selangor arrived here on Monday on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Economy Minister Receives Angolan Envoy

MB271655 Luanda ANGOP in French 1030 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (ANGO) — Kamu de Almeida, Angolan ambassador to Egypt, was recently received by Mustafa Kamil al-Sa'id Ibrahim, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, to whom he delivered a verbal message from Ismael Martins, Angolan minister of foreign trade.

This was pointed out in a communique issued by the Angola Embassy in Cairo. According to the communique, the talks primarily focused on the commercial agreement between Angola and Egypt signed on the occasion of the 17th Cairo International Fair held from 10 to 23 March, in which Angola took part as an observer.

The commercial attache of the Angola Embassy in the Republic of Congo, and Angola's representative to the Cairo International Fair, Antonio Correia Branco, attended the meeting.

Reportage on Visit of GDR Minister Felix Meier

Talks Begin 27 March

NC271236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — Dr Muhammad al-Sayyid al-Gharuri, minister of industry and mineral resources, met today with Felix Meier, GDR minister of electrical engineering and electronics. They discussed means of bolstering bilateral technical and industrial cooperation. During the meeting, the GDR minister expressed his country's readiness to strengthen bilateral cooperation through the introduction of technology and vocational training, and to increase the ability of the Egyptian

textile, iron, and steel factories as well as electronic and electric cable industries.

They also discussed promoting Egyptian industrial exports to the GDR to achieve a balance in foreign trade between the two countries. The GDR minister arrived in Cairo last Saturday on a weeklong visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, to discuss technical cooperation in the fields of electricity and industry.

Technical Protocol Signed

NC271705 Cairo MENA in English 1520 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Egypt and East Germany signed today a technical cooperation protocol in the domain of electricity whereby the GDR would supply Egypt with the equipment and apparatus needed for the transfer and distribution of electricity. East Germany would also supply Egypt with electric transformer stations to promote the main grid of the Republic and a workshop for the repair of these stations.

A joint Egyptian-German committee would be formed to meet rotationally twice a year in one of the capitals of the two countries to follow up the implementation of agreed upon projects.

It was also agreed that East Germany provide Egypt with technical and financial aid required to develop the electric cables and towers,and also meet the Egyptian 5-year plan needs in the field of power.

The protocol was signed on the Egyptian side by Minister of Power and Energy Mahir Abaza and on the German side by Minister for Electric Engineering and Electronics Felix Meier.

Reportage on Albanian Agriculture Minister's Visit

Thomai Arrives 27 March

NC272033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — Albanian Agriculture Minister Themie Thomai arrived tonight in Cairo heading a delegation on a 1-week visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of state for agriculture and food security.

The Albanian minister and her delegation will meet with Dr Yusuf Wali, and with Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Samahah; Dr Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation; and Dr Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade, to discuss areas of cooperation between Egypt and Albania in the fields of training, agricultural projects, animal husbandry, land reclamation, and rural development.

A cooperation protocol will be signed at the end of the visit.

Mubarak Receives Thomai

NC280854 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0831 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Themie Thomai, Albanian agriculture minister, at Al-'Urubah Palace. The audience was attended by Yusuf Wali, minister of state for agriculture and food security.

The Albanian agriculture minister arrived in Cairo yesterday for a weeklong visit at Yusuf Wali's invitation.

New Wafd Party Launches AL-WAFD Newspaper

PM271211 [Editorial Report] The first issue of the 12-page Arabic weekly newspaper *AL-WAFD*, mouthpiece of the New Wafd Party, was published 22 March 1984. Under the paper's title in the masthead is printed a slogan by the party's founder, Sa'd Zaghlul, which says: "Right is above might, and the nation is above the government." Party leader and veteran Wafdist Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din is the paper's board chairman, and Mustafa Shardi its chief editor. The paper says it will become a daily some time in the future.

Writing in the "Al-Wafd View" column, Saraj ad-Din describes the paper as the mouthpiece of "the biggest party in Egyptian history," and "the free forum of every opinion that aims at building Egypt, securing the Egyptian people's future, and erecting a solid edifice of democracy."

In a front-page report, the paper says "the New Wafd Party following a court ruling establishing its rights to resume its political activity has received hundreds of thousands of applicants interested in joining the party. Those who have already joined the party include a large number of former ministers, professors, former provincial governors, lawyers, doctors, members of the judiciary, former commanders of the Armed Forces and police, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, businessmen, diplomats, and artists." This is followed by a list of some 50 names of prominent members who have joined the party, including former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi; former Finance Minister Ahmad Abu Isma'il; Assistant Minister at the Specialized Councils Muhammad Ahmad Labib; and Dean of Lawyers Ahmad al-Khawajah.

Briefs

Minerals Discovered in South Sinai — Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Field researches and studies conducted by Geological Survey and Mining Research Authority geologists in south Sinai indicated the existence of brass zinc, lead, and tin which could be produced in commercial quantities. An authority official said studies on tin discovered in the 'Ujla area on the Red Sea are underway in preparation for its production in commercial quantities. [Text][Cairo MENA in English 1343 GMT 27 March 84 NC]

Envoy Replies to UN Report on Chemical Weapons

JN281152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1114 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] New York, 28 Mar (INA) — Iraq has again expressed the hope that the United Nations will assume its responsibility in ending the Iraq-Iran conflict which has been going on now for more than 42 months. Iraq has also expressed the hope that the world organization and its Secretary General de Cuellar will take the necessary measures to make Iran abide by all international pacts and norms, thus the secretary general will have fulfilled his role under the UN Charter and carried out his humanitarian mission after Iraq's repeated appeals for UN efforts to end the conflict.

This came in a statement which Iraq's permanent UN representative made to the INA correspondent here today.

Regarding the report which the UN secretary general has circulated on what was termed the use of chemical weapons, Iraq's representative in the world organization refused to comment on this report. However, he said that the Iraqi Government does not consider itself concerned with that, because Iraq did not use such weapons.

The representative added that if the experts who were sent by the secretary general found such materials in certain Iranian regions, then the Iranian Government alone is responsible for that.

The Iraqi representative reviewed the barbaric acts of the Iranian regime, which sends children to the battlefronts to use as human detonators of mines, rapes girls in prisons before executing them, and kills prisoners. He said that the Iranian regime cannot be absolved of the possibility of fabricating things in order to find justifications for its defeats in the aggression against Iraq and to divert world public attention from the main issue, which is the need to end the war.

The representative added: It is very obvious that the General Secretariat of the United Nations has acted on its own responsibility by sending the mission to Iran. As stated in the report, the secretary general did this at the insistence of the Iranian side.

The Iraqi representative affirmed that this UN move means that the world organization is concentrating on secondary issues, especially alleged ones, when there is an increasing need to concentrate on the basic issue, which is the conflict itself, and to end this conflict in accordance with the following Security Council resolutions: Resolution 479 of 28 September 1980, Resolution 514 of 12 July 1982, Resolution 522 of 4 October 1982, and Resolution 540 of 31 October 1983 as well as General Assembly Resolution 37/3 of 22 October 1982.

The Iraqi representative also said that the move came in response to the request of that side of the conflict which insists on continuing the war and publicly announcing its intentions to occupy the territories of the other side, which is Iraq, and to enforce its political will on it. He said that this is the second time the General Secretariat responds to an Iranian request dealing with a secondary issue of the conflict. He said that the secretary general had previously responded to the insistence of the Iranians and dispatched a team on 20 May 1983 to investigate the claims about the shelling of civilian targets.

The Iraqi representative said that the UN General Secretariat had previously responded to two Iranian requests for factfinding missions, but that it has completely ignored Iraq's repeated requests for a factfinding mission to investigate the treatment of POW's in both countries. This is due to the atrocious treatment of Iraqi POW's as mentioned in the ICRC memorandums dated 7 May 1983 and 10 February 1984.

The Iraqi representative affirmed that by responding to the wish of the side which has rejected all Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and which has refused to cooperate with it in finding a solution to the present conflict on the basis of international law and the principles of the charter, the General Secretariat is permitting this side, which is Iran, to exploit the role of the secretary general for propaganda purposes.

The representative said that Iraq would have wished that the General Secretariat had made it a condition on the side which resorted to it on this alleged issue that it first accept the UN mandate on the conflict and on the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution in accordance with UN resolutions and that it respect all the Geneva Conventions. Iraq would have wished also that the General Secretariat had made it a condition that Iran abide by all international pacts pertaining to the conflict, not just certain provisions of those pacts that fit its propaganda objectives.

The Iraqi representative added: While welcoming what was contained in the secretary general's statements on the need to end the war, Iraq would have wished that the secretary general had addressed his call for peace efforts not to the Iraqi and Iranian Governments, but to Iran alone, because it is the side which has so far refused to cooperate with these efforts, while Iraq has repeatedly affirmed its readiness to cooperate with the secretary general and other quarters which have exerted their efforts to achieve a cease-fire and an end the conflict.

Spokesman: Super Etendards Strike Enemy Tankers

JN271722 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of our previous warnings to oil tankers and to the owners of commercial ships not to approach the areas which we previously announced to be prohibited military zones, a formation of Super Etendard planes at 1735 today struck two big enemy naval targets in the area southwest of Khark Island. The two targets were completely destroyed.

At the same time, our planes dealt a strong blow to the (Tenke Fene) pumping station, situated in the Khorramabad area, north of Dezful. The station was directly and accurately hit. All our planes returned safely and triumphanatly to base, praise be to God. It is God who grants victory. 27 March 1984

Armed Forces Communique No 1,417 - 27 March

JN271758 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,417 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 27 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of our lofty people and our valiant Armed Forces which have confronted the covetous Khomeyniite enemy in defense of the land, honor, and sacred values continue their activities with more heroism, courage, and capability, and inflict on the aggressor invaders huge losses on land, at sea, and in the air. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our daring fighter aircraft today carried out fierce raids against enemy units, positions, and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, scoring very effective hits, and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. Other formations of our fighter aircraft raided an enemy air defense system in the same sector, scoring effective hits. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our fighter aircraft carried out 252 combat missions today.

2. Formations of our daring helicopter gunships today raided enemy troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, scoring direct hits, and destroying two troop concentrations, one vehicle, and several weapons and military hardware of various types. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units shelled enemy positions and artillery positions opposite their positions east of Basra, killing several enemy elemetns, and destroying one 82-mm gun.

4. One was killed and one hardware stockpile and one machine gun were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

6. The rancorous Khomeyniite clique yesterday evening and today shelled Basra and Mandali and their suburbs with heavy artillery. As a result of the enemy shelling eight civilians were wounded in Basra and two houses were destroyed in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, on 27 March 1984

MENA: Tariq 'Aziz Views Rumsfeld Visit

NC272208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (MENA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will leave Baghdad for Tunis tomorrow to attend the meetings of the committee formed by the Arab League Council during its recent meeting in Baghdad to follow up the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In a statement to MENA, 'Aziz expressed hope that the committee would succeed in implementing the Baghdad meeting resolutions through intensified political activity that would seek to end the war and support Iraq in the face of the Iranian aggression.

Commenting on U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld's visit to Iraq, 'Aziz said this was the second visit by Rumsfeld to Iraq at his request, and "we welcomed this visit." He noted that it was not a special visit to Baghdad, but was part of a tour of the countries of the area.

'Aziz also noted that the Iraqi officials' meeting with Rumsfeld was long and that viewpoints were exchanged between the two sides. "The meeting was also very frank and we explained our view concerning the continuing Iranian aggression against our country."

'Aziz added: We also explained our view concerning the Arab situation, the continuing occupation of southern Lebanon, Israel's continuing expansionist and settlement policy in the West Bank, and the need for the United States to adopt a serious stand in favor of the Arab right, as well as the need for all the states concerned with security, stability, and justice in the area to adopt a stand in support of the Arab right.

He said: We discussed clearly and seriously the question of Jerusalem. He said we the Arabs strongly oppose the transfer of embassies to occupied Jerusalem because it is Arab. In this connection, we referred to the Iraqi-Saudi statement issued in 1979 in which we and Saudi Arabia declared that we would reconsider our stand toward every state which tried to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem. He added that this statement had a great effect. Several states which intended to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem backed down, while some states again transferred their embassies to Tel Aviv. We believe that a strong Arab stand in this respect will foil the Israeli plans to make the United States move its embassy to Jerusalem.

Arab Jurists Union Issues Statement Praising Iraq

JN271338 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Permanent Bureau of the Arab Jurists Union expressed appreciation for Iraq's positive stands on the question of ending the war with Iran. It called on the Iranian regime to heed the wishes of Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion.

In recomendations issued at the end of its ninth meeting yesterday, the Bureau requested the Arab countries, in light of the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing its aggression and threats of occupying Iraqi territory, to carry out the resolutions of the Fes summit and express solidarity with Iraq in its just pan-Arab battle by invoking the collective Arab defense pact.

The permanent bureau of the Arab Jurists Union stressed that the security of the Arab Gulf is the responsibility of the Arab Gulf countries and the Arab nation as a whole, and that any interference on the pretext of providing security or defending the region is a colonialist attempt to distribute zones of influence and to impose the control of foreign forces on the region.

In its recomendations, the bureau called for providing guarantees for protecting rights and liberties in the Arab homeland. It also called for cancelling extraordinary legislation and courts, and lifting restrictions on orgnizations and unions. The statement also touched on a number of current Arab issues including the situation in the Arab Gulf region. The permanent bureau of the Arab Jurists Union hailed Iraq, people, and leadership, for its effort in ensuring the success of the bureau's meeting. The general secretariat was entrusted with choosing the location of the bureau's next meeting in coordination with the member organizations in the union.

Progress National Front Spokesman on New Charter

JN280857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0748 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA) — Na'im Haddad, secretary general of the Progress National Front, has said that the front continues to discuss the new National Action Charter.

In a statement to the newspaper *AL-IRAQ* published today, Haddad said that the current phase witnessed by Iraq calls for a new charter that takes into consideration the new developments, especially with regard to confornting the Iranian aggression and pooling all resources in defense of Iraq's people and territory. Haddad explained that a dialogue is going on with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] concerning its acceptance in the front. Haddad expressed the hope that the dialogue would succeed so PUK will occupy its place in the front. He affirmed that PUK will join the other members of the front in discussing the new National Action Charter.

Baghdad Azeri Commentaries on War Issues

Tehran-Tel Aviv Cooperation Assailed

GF271844 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, this is a strange world. One of the most strange aspects of this world, however, is the blood-dripping dictatorship set up by Khomeyni. The latter has taken an oath to unite all the Islamic peoples in the world under Islam. Meanwhile, he has initiated friendly talks with the Zionist movement, which unites the Jews of the world. This is indeed strange. The rotten-brained Khomeyni, who does not understand the true spirit of Islam, is destroying Islam within Islam itself and is doing this in the name of that religion. Therefore, he is nothing else but an executioner and impostor who is dragging the Muslims of the world into disaster.

When starting the war against Iraq, Khomeyni received aid from the international imperialists and Israel as much as he could. With the aid that poured into Iran from Zionist Israel he continued the aggressive war against Islamic Iraq which is one of the sacred centers of the Islamic world.

Whenever the Iranian rulers bombard Iraq's cities and towns at the present time, Israeli radio shamelessly congratulates the pro-Khomeyni bands of robbers over the crime. Yes, dear listeners, the bombs dropped on Iraqi cities and towns are those Israel has supplied to Iran. Zionist Israel (?cannot tolerate) Iraq's freedom and strength in the region. In view of this, no matter how much Iran uses its bombs and arms in the war or no matter how much Iran's ammunition depots are depleted, Israel will resupply Iran's needs in the form of gifts. It can, therefore, be said that the amount of damage Iraq suffers in the war is regarded as a victory for the joint forces of Zionism and Khomeyni.

In view of this, had Iran not engaged in an aggression against Iraq, Israel would have undoubtedly done so itself. Now, however, there is no need for this on the part of Israel because the tyrannical Iranian rulers, who talk about Islam, are doing it on Israel's behalf. Nevertheless, the impostors and the dictator executioners in both Tel Aviv and Tehran and Qom must well understand that Iraq will never be defeated in the present war. This is an undeniable fact.

Iranian Rulers 'Escalate' War

GF271948 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the Iranian rulers are endeavoring to escalate the war as much as they can every day. In fact, they seem eager to have this detestable war continue.

The military forces of Iran are gradually weakening. The losses Iran has suffered in terms of men and material at the end of each attack are horrible. For example, 80,000 men of the aggressive Khomeyni forces were either killed or wounded or taken prisoners of war as a result of their second attack on Basra. Apart from this, dissatisfaction and [word indistinct] has been observed among the ranks of the aggressive Iranian forces after each attack. Therefore, the prolongation of the inauspicious and damaging war by the warmongering mullahs is not in the interests of Iran at all. Only the mad Iranian rulers benefit from this — in that their wish is to consolidate their oppressive rule over the Iranians. And, one of the main reasons the stupid mullahs wish to occupy the Iranians with the war is to divert their attention from the serious economic problems which have arisen in Iran.

Nevertheless, the Iranians are gradually becoming aware of the Khomeyni regime's ugly policy related to all these facts and are moving to oppose it. In fact, they are organizing demonstrations in Iran's cities and towns to demand an end to the war. Regrettably, the reactionary mullahs who know nothing else but oppression, torture, and dictatorship are pursuing a very detestable policy toward those who oppose the war. These mullahs are collecting innocent people from universities, schools, and factories and forcing them to the battlefronts under the (?control) of the Revolution Guards.

In addition to all this, material and economic disasters are sweeping through every domain in Iran together with military misfortunes. Undoubtedly, the fate of the Iranian regime which is experiencing such an impasse will be nothing else but (?complete) decadence.

Further Reportage on Visit of Queen Elizabeth

Visits Monument, Medical Center

JN271654 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, queen of the United Kingdom; His Highness Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh; and their delegation visited the Martyrs' Monument this morning. She was received at the site by Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the chief of staff; and a number of senior officers at the Army Headquarters. An Army muscial band played both the British and Jordanian national anthems and a group of honor guards saluted her majesty.

Afterwards, the queen and her delegation toured the various sections of the monument and observed their contents which include photographs and models representing Jordan's history since the inception of the great Arab revolution in 1916 and the stages of modernization and development which the Jordanian Armed Forces experienced through the support and care of His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Later, Queen Elizabeth watered the tree of life at the monument. A group of trumpeters blew the retreat. Then, she wrote a few words in the visitors' record. The commander in chief of the Armed Forces gave her majesty a medal of the Martyr's Monument as a souvenir present on this occasion. At the end of the visit, the army musical band played both the British and Jordanian national anthems.

The queen was accompanied on this visit by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the British ambassador in Amman, and a number of high-ranking officials.

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited the King Husayn Medical Center before noon today. They were received by Her Majesty Queen Nur, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the director of the Royal Medical Services, and a number of physicians working at the center. At the beginning of the tour, the director of the Royal Medical Services briefed the queen and her delegation on the center's role, responsibilities, and the services rendered to beneficiaries.

The queen and her delegation toured a number of the center's sections and observed the extent of medical progress and modern equipment which is used by the Armed Forces. She also visited a number of patients and spoke with several physicians and workers in the center. She also visited the Royal Jordanian Farah Rehabilitation Center and observed its various sections and the medical apparatus used in it.

Later, she visited the Queen 'Alia' Center for Heart Surgery and Diseases and observed the work progress in it. At the end of the tour, the queen wrote few words in the visitors' record.

Holds Reception 27 Mar

JN280740 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, queen of the United Kingdom; and His Highness Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh, held a big reqeption at the Basman Palace last night. Attending the reception were His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, His Highness Prince Muhammad, Her Highness Princess Taghrid, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, a number of the Hashemite family members, the accompanying British delegation, the prime minister, the Senate president, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlaine, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the ministers, the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the members of Arab and foreign diplomatic corps, and senior civilian and military officials.

Visits Jordan Valley 28 Mar

JN281331 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur this morning accompanied Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, queen of the United Kingdom; and His Highness Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh on a visit to the Jordan Valley.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan briefed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on Jordan's comprehensive development plan that is being carried out in the valley. He pointed out that this integrated agricultural achievement in the Jordan Valley represents the Jordanian people's determination to achieve prosperity and self-sufficiency. His highness added that credit for the development in this area goes to both the citizen and the land. He said: We were able to meld the individual to the land through thorough planning and build an independent community in this vital area. His highness indicated the challenge that is facing Jordan in this area, namely the population challenge which is the result of the Israeli action that seeks to expel the Arab citizens from their lands and to build settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Al-Masri Confers With Britain's Luce 27 Mar

JN271357 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs, and Richard Luce, minister of state for foreign and commonwealth office, have reviewed the situation in the Middle East in particular and the international situation in general. While receiving Luce today, Al-Masri also reviewed bilateral relations between Jordan and Britain and means to develop them in the interest of both countries. They also expressed their deep satisfaction with the high level and continued development of these relations.

Attending the meeting were the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the British and the Jordanian ambassadors in Amman and London, and Luce's private secretary.

UK Surface-to-Air Antiaircraft Missiles Sought

JN271250 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1214 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Fua'ad Na'im recorded dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Amman say that Jordan is currently holding talks with the British Government to purchase 1,100 British-made surface-to-air antiaircraft missiles. The sources added that Jordan began the talks after the U.S. Administration decided last week to suspend its request for congressional approval to sell 1,100 Stinger surface-to-air missiles to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Informed sources in Amman believe the British Government will most likely agree to sell to Jordan the missiles it needs after it has become clear that King Husayn is ready to turn to the USSR if necessary. In reply to a question on this subject, a Jordanian official simply recalled that King Husayn has often repeated that Jordan is ready to purchase the arms it needs from any source.

Prime Minister on Foreign Policy Issues

LD271519 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1346 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Mar (KUNA) — Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, in a press statement to be published here tomorrow, urges the American people and the peoples of Western Europe to understand the just Jordanian stance concerning peace issues in the Middle East. In a special interview with the Kuwait magazine *AL-YAQZAH*, he adds that certain parties wanted to increase our differences with the superpowers, especially the United States. We do not want these differences to be increased; we want to these countries to support us and our just issues.

In reply to a question on the existence of coordination with some Arab countries within a specific political framework, the Jordanian prime minister says: We do not wish for groups or Arab axes to be there; we are endeavoring for a united Arab stand and one Arab voice; then we shall endeavor for a united Islamic stand. We shall endeavor to optain world support after we have gained Arab and Islamic support.

Regarding Jordanian-Palestinian talks, 'Ubaydat says: We and our Palestinian brothers are making joint efforts with the aim of achieving pan-Arab objectives that the Arab brothers are duty-bound to understand and support, especially because talks with the Palestinian side are not as easy as perceived by some. We need a great deal of effort and many sessions in order to erase misunderstanding and bring points of view closer in order to reach a common conviction and a united stand.

'Ubaydat says that to talk about Arab differences and disunion is futile: We can do without such talk. It would be better to talk about what is positive, work toward building Arab solidarity and ways of creating it, and work toward supporting this united Arab stand.

Regarding the return of parties to Jordan, the Jordanian prime minister says: The return of parties and party activities is not one of the issues that are discussed currently as part of constructing democratic life. There are existing rostrums that can be developed. To further deepen democracy, we shall endeavor to develop mass press and other information offices in order to provide opportunities for everyone to participate and express opinions. Participation does not mean participation of people's representatives in parliament, but a comprehensive participation in all spheres and arenas in order to create a strong internal front and a productive economy, to which the military arm will be a reserve and a protector in the confrontation against future challenges.

In reply to a question on the Jordanian Government's choice of timing in declaring its stand concerning U.S. policy in the Middle East, 'Ubaydat says: We did not choose the timing and had no choice in it, but they are the ones who chose it. King Husayn's statements constitute the totality of Jordan's stands after having been placed in a single framework. He adds: Israel is present in Arab territories as a result of U.S. moral and political support to it, to the extent that the United States submits to what is dictated by Israel.

Leaders Deplore Cancellation of U.S. Arms Deal

PM270928 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 84 p 1

[Report on interview with former Jordanian Prime Ministers Mudar Badran and Bahjat at-Talhuni by 'Arafat Hijazi in Amman — date not specified]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, two former Jordanian prime ministers have warned the United States of the consequences of withdrawing the request to the Congress to approve the missiles deal which Jordan asked for.

Former Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that the ban on arms sales to Jordan by the United States is a very wrong decision. I find no justification which the United States can use to defend its wrong decision. The Stinger missile, as is well known, is a one-man weapon fired from the shoulder and therefore is a defensive weapon. When Jordan wants to arm itself in order to defend itself against an external danger and the United States denies it such arms, it is committing a grave mistake, particularly since Jordan is accustomed to obtaining arms principally from the United States.

Mr Badran said: I can see no logical justification for this ban except that the Zionist powers have been able to veto the U.S. decisions. As King Husayn always said, any arms Jordan obtains become Jordanian Arab arms regardless of the source from which they are obtained. Arms in the Jordanian Armed Forces are U.S.-made, although there are French aircraft, British tanks,

and Soviet surface-to-air missiles. The door is open for Jordan to buy arms from any source without any conditions attached. I must say frankly that if Jordan fails to obtain this U.S. missile deal, it will not be short of means of obtaining such arms from other sources, without compromising its freedom and independence.

Former Jordanian Prime Minister Bahjat at-Talhuni said: Jordan asked for the U.S. missiles more than 3 years ago. These are weapons for defending Jordanian skies. President Reagan's action in withdrawing this request from Congress is very regrettable but, at the same time, it shows unreasonable partiality on the part of the United States in dealing with countries , in general, and in discriminating against the Arab countries in favor of Israel, in particular. Some examples of this partiality are as follows: The United States offers Israel all kinds of sophisticated and destructive land, air, and naval weapons as well as all manner of weapons of death and destruction, such as fragmentation and cluster bombs, not in order to enable Israel to defend its waters and skies but to commit aggression against peaceful countries, as in the case of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

He said: Such attacks take place with U.S. weapons, which are offensive and deadly weapons that the United States gives to Israel as a gift and which turn Israel into a U.S. arsenal. But when it comes to giving arms to some of the Arab countries its partiality forces it to seek Israel's implicit approval first. Moreover, this [approval of arms sales] takes 2 or 3 years, at the end of which time the proposed sale is withdrawn, as President Reagan did 2 days ago.

He added: I appeal to all the Arabs to take the matter into consideration and to realize that the U.S.-Zionist game and the U.S. partiality is affecting their interests and their ability to preserve their strength and defend themselves. They should realize that their strength stems only from their solidarity and unity and not from U.S. missiles and arms. The United States must also realize that Zionism seeks only its interests, and this is harmful to U.S. interests.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on Husayn's Statements, U.S. Policy

JN271157 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "U.S. Credibility Continues To Decline," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: When a neutral observer scrutinizes the U.S. positions on Middle East issues and the Palestinian question, he will be astonished at the contradictions in the U.S. stands, the clash between slogans and practical action, and the United States' insistence, which is difficult to anaylze, on adopting a policy that directly affects its interests and leads to the collapse of its credibility day after day.

This U.S. behavior, which is incompatible with the United States' prestige, reputation, and interests in the Middle East, explains why the U.S. allies have begun to dissociate themselves from the United States, and why their official friends, and other peoples are disappointed and realize that they have followed an illusion and placed their destinies in impotent hands which are unable to safeguard the interests of friends or allies.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: The contradiction and confusion in U.S. policies impelled His Majesty King Husayn to expose the U.S. stands through his statements to the British television yesterday and his majesty's statements to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* few days ago. This confusion and contradiction makes King Husayn call on the United States to adopt a more balanced stand in the region, not only to serve peace, but also to serve the U.S. interests in the region. This confusion regarding U.S. policies makes King Husayn wonder about the U.S. logic which allows the United States to call the fedayeen in Afghanistan mujahidin and fighters for freedom, while it considers the Palestinians to be terrorists with no rights. The confusion in U.S. policy makes King Husayn wonder about the logic that permits the United States to provide Israel with weapons, grants, and aid, and prevents weapons from being delivered to Jordan to defend itself.

This same question is also related to the double standard of U.S. logic, which retreated and collapsed, regarding the U.S. viewpoint on the settlement issue; which the United States first described as illegal, then described as an obstacle, now is describing as a mere hindrance, and at a later time, will completely ignore this issue.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: We positively believe that the credibility and image of the United States in the Arab world is declining; and that the Arab region, its peoples, and leaders are excused if they begin to search this wide world for allies who are more sincere, more balanced, and more just in dealing with other peoples.

AR-RA'Y on Zionist Influence in United States

JN280937 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Tragedy of the Zionist Influence and the U.S. Double Standard," *AR-RA'Y* says: The double standards in the U.S. policy and stands are not only a threat to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and peace and stability in this region of the world, but represent premeditated deviation from ethical responsibility and a threat to values and principles. When a superpower such as the United States deliberately adopts such double standards and creates a disparity between words and deeds, then the international community faces immense disruption. Support for aggression against others, their identity and rights, and backing the aggressors to continue their terrorism and occupation are two issues that will turn the Arab region into a minefield. By virtue of this region's location, any explosion would go far beyond the borders of the Middle East and the U.S. policy toward the Zionist occupation of the Arab land and toward settlements and Judaization. This matter is unacceptable both on the Arab and international level. In fact, as His Majesty King Husayn pointed out in his statements to *TIME* magazine, it represents a tragedy whose consequences will neither serve the

interests of the American people nor the relations of their government. If his majesty sufficientlypointed out that relations between the Arab world and the United States cannot become normal then what his majesty said goes far beyond these statements.

AR-RA'Y says: Basically the issue is related to the Zionist influence that is being openly exercised on the legislative and executive authorities in the United States. His Majesty King Husayn describes this fact as a tragedy, and this is true, otherwise how can we interpret the U.S. President's call on the United Jewish Appeal to help him convince Congress to approve selling us the defensive weapons we need. Observers of this situation are amazed and wonder about the reality of the U.S. prestige that President Reagan has come to restore, and about the real concept of the free world of which the United States sees itself as the leader and responsible for it, and for the rights of its peoples and citizens to dignity, peace, and justice.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is a painful question that makes us recall the great U.S. Presidents who safeguarded the principles of the American nation and fought against all the forces of fanaticism, aggression, Nazism, and occupation, and the violation of charters, values, and principles.

Al-Masri Leaves for Arab League Meeting in Tunis

JN281013 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Mar (JNA) — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman this morning for Tunis to head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the 81st session of the Arab League Council and to attend the meeting of the committee following up on the resolutions of the emergency session of the Arab League Council.

Continuing Contacts Regarding French Withdrawal

French Brief Security Committee

NC272000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee held a meeting today attended by all its members. They are Staff Colonel Jean Nasir representing the Army; Dr Ayyub Humayyid representing the Amal Movement; Wahbah Abu Fa'ur representing the National Salvation Front; and Dr Jean Ghanim representing the Lebanese Front.

The 1 and 1/2 hour meeting was held at the committee's temporary headquarters at the horse race course. During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the security situation and discussed the need for adhering to the cease-fire. The commanders of the French contingent briefed the conferees on the situation prevailing in the vicinity of the French contingent's position in the Palais Des Pins, and the preparatory measures that have been taken to replace the French force — that will withdraw according to schedule — by an Internal Security Force.

This morning, Staff Colonel Nasif, the Army's representative on the committee, received Colonel Rafiq al-Hasan, who has been assigned the task of commanding the Internal Security Force that is to replace the French forces in all their positions. The two officers then proceeded to the horse race course where Colonel Nasif presented Colonel al-Hasan to General Datin, commander of the French contingent, and his staff. A meeting then took place between the two Lebanese officers and French officers. They studied the military measures that are to be taken in the preparatory and executive phases of the handing over operation.

France To Dispatch Observers

NC281225 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 28 (AFP) — France is sending a 40-man military observation team to Beirut, at the request of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, to monitor the ceasefire there, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

(The observers were expected to arrive in Beirut late this afternoon, a Western diplomatic source said in the Lebanese capital.)

The French contingent of the defunct Multinational Peacekeeping Force is to complete its pullout by Saturday. The U.S., British, and Italian contingents have already withdrawn.

The ministry statement said the French team will be composed of officers and non-commissioned officers from the Armed Forces and gendarmerie. It iwll be commanded by a colonel.

President al-Jumayyil made his request for the observers following the National Reconciliation Conference held in Lausanne, Switzerland, earlier this month when all parties agreed on such a step. The conference set up a Lebanese political and military committee which will oversee the French team.

French Withdrawal Continues

NC281028 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Under the guarded calm that prevails on the combat lines in the capital, the French contingent continues its departure and its men are vacating their positions between the capital's two sectors.

French Officer Shot Dead

NC281312 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] At 1155 today, a French lieutenant was shot dead by an unidentified assailant near the Saudi Embassy in Ra's Beirut. It has transpired that a red BMW 2002 without license plates was driving past the embassy when its passengers opened machine gun fire at the lieutenant.

Contacts, Policy Regarding W. Beirut Situation

Islamic Leaders Meet 27 Mar

NC271926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Islamic leaders at 1130 today resumed the meeting they began yesterday. They met at the mufti's office under the chairmanship of Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid. Former prime ministers, current and former ministers, and deputies attended the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting at 1500, Dr Husayn al-Quwatli, director general of the mufti's office, read the following statement:

The conferees continued their discussion of the serious situation that resulted from the recent terrible deterioration in Beirut's security situation. They also followed up the implementation of the steps agreed upon. They observed with satisfaction the positive steps which the Army and Internal Security Forces have taken by assuming their tasks. They also underscored the need for all political leaders to fully assume their responsibilities to ensure implementation of the agreed upon steps, out of their conviction that only a true and complete implementation of those steps can ensure a return of confidence to the people, the removal of the causes of tension, and elimination of the vestiges of painful incidents.

Proceeding from a position of national responsibility, in sensing the profound sorrow Muslims and all citizens feel as a result of the regrettable incidents that occurred in Beirut, and out of the necessity to maintain the unity of the Islamic and national position during a phase in which the fate of the homeland is being determined, the conferees call for the continuation of solidarity and concerted efforts to safeguard the common cause and its impregnability.

Druze Retaliation Ordered

NC281234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned that Anwar al-Fatayri, whom the Junblattists appointed military governor of West Beirut, has given his men orders to retaliate against yesterday's bombing of shops belonging to some Druze by blowing up Sunni shops.

At the same time, clashes between Sunni and Junblattist organizations continue. Gunmen opened fire today on a Junblattist patrol passing through the Arab University area, hitting one of its members. The patrol immediately called for reinforcements, which included Amal elements. This force raided several houses in the area and kidnapped some Sunni citizens. The situation in the area became tense following the incident, and gunmen spread out, particularly in the inner section of the city.

PSP Source on Clashes

GF271732 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Mar 84 pp 1,19

[Text] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] yesterday disclosed to *AL-WATAN* certain aspects of the process of seizing the positions of Al-Murabitun that occurred last Thursday and Friday, and said that Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun — will not leave Damascus. The source explained that the operation was politically prepared several weeks ago with the knowledge of more than one party in western Beirut. General agreement was made to fix the cease-fire that was approved by the PSP, Amal Movement, Dar al-Ifta', Islamic Military Council, and grouping of the independent nationalists led by Samir As-Sabbagh, a Murabitun dissident. All parties promised to adhere to the cease-fire and end the exchange of shells which hit residential areas.

The Al-Murabitun Movement rejected this agreement at that time and insisted on its rejection. This forced the PSP to control the situation.

The responsible source attributed this step to the following reasons: 1. Qulaylat's insistence on having his individual political and military stands. He adopted a stand in opposition to the Salvation Front, and defied its role in the Geneva and Lausanne conferences. This political stand was reflected in military attitudes that created continuing tension by the shelling of the eastern sector of Beirut without coordinating with the main parties. This ongoing tension and exchange of shells, which hit both areas, stirred a wave of horror and led to an unsettled living situation and a continuous emigration from Beirut's western areas.

2. Qulaylat's insistence on hosting the small armed group that include a number of bullies who disturb security.

3. Qulaylat's insistence on adopting an individualistic stand regarding coordination with the Palestinian resistance forces, and his attempt to bring these forces back to Beirut. This matter is rejected by the main political forces, and contradicts what was agreed upon among Junblatt, Birri, and Abu Salih in Damascus on the day when Beirut was retaken from the Lebanese Army last February. That was the agreement which prohibited reopening the armed offices in Beirut, and called for maintenance of the status quo with military and field coordination in the northern and eastern areas of Lebanon.

The same source denied that the operation of seizing Al-Murabitun positions is part of a plan to weaken the Libyan "role" in Lebanon, especially that the operation took place while Tripoli [Libya] was receiving Mr Qualaylat. He said the relationship between the PSP leader and Libyan leadership was never stronger and closer than it is these days.

Meanwhile, *AL-WATAN* has learned that Mr In'am Ra'd, chairman of the Nationalist Social Party, is currently living in Damascus, and that there are "strong" reasons preventing his return to Beirut not very different from those preventing Qulaylat's return. This implies a disturbed relationship between the PSP and Amal Movement.

Amal Warns of 'Radical' Steps

NC280622 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The implementation of security arrangements in West Beirut is still incomplete. It is limited to a symbolic presence by the Internal Security Forces in some positions, and to limited patrols by the 6th Brigade.

'Ayyub Humayid, an Amal Movement official, has warned against encroachment on the 6th Brigade. He stressed that the Amal Movement might be forced to take radical measures against the side in the western area which slanders the 6th Brigade and casts doubts about it. This side also fabricates issues which only exist in its imagination.

'Supervision' of Palestinians Urged

NC281302 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Our security correspondent has learned that a responsible source in the Amal Movement has asked the socialists in the mountain to tighten their supervision of Palestinian elements. These elements carry forged Lebanese identity cards and will cross the mountain to enter West Beirut to support the Al-Murabitun.

Islamic Jihad Bombs Druze Shop in West Beirut

NC280522 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A huge explosion occurred at 2300 last night at the At-Turabah factory in Sikkah. Only material damage resulted from the explosion. Another explosion last night at Hasib Abu Zaki' Shop on As-Sidani Street, West Beirut, resulted in material damages within a 100-meter circle. The owner of the shop is

the uncle of Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, commander of the security group in West Beirut.

Following the explosion, a statement in the name of the Islamic Jihad Organization was distributed. The statement said: In disclaiming the denial propagated by the Druze Junblattists in our name, and in implementation of our previous threats of hitting Druze interests in West Beirut, we have carried out the bombing of a shop owned by a Druze from the Abu Zaki family in Mahallat Ra's Beirut.

It is recalled that news agencies have received contradictory information as to whether the Jihad organization has in fact threatened to assassinate Walid Junblatt and hit Druze interests in West Beirut, or whether all that was only a cheap hoax.

Jihad Claims Another Bombing

NC280656 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] [The Islamic Jihad] Organization has claimed responsibility for blowing up a shop in Saqiyat al-Janzir, Al-Biqa' Street, belonging to a Druze from the Luqman family. The shop was destroyed.

Security reports say that Walid Junblatt's gunmen have attempted to control the situation through armed patrols and stationary and mobile barriers. These reports add that a very tense situation prevails in the western area [of Beirut] out of fear of explosions.

Opposing Sides in Iqlim al-Kharrub Reach Agreement

NC270644 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Warring parties in Iqlim al-Kharrub have agreed on withdrawing gunmen and heavy weapons, and on returning evacuees to their homes. An agreement has been reached stipulating that the inhabitants of the coastal region should use the Al-Awwali Bridge, and the inhabitants of the upper region should use the Batir-Jazzin Road. According to the agreement, the road to Beirut shall remain closed, with people using ships instead.

Lebanese Forces To Withdraw

NC281310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A Lebanese Forces spokesman has stressed that these forces are getting ready to withdraw from the Al-Kharrub region in accordance with the agreement reached — through Israel — with the Progressive Socialist Party. According to REUTER, which quotes a Lebanese Forces spokesman, the Lebanese Forces have gathered their military vehicles and heavy-caliber weapons on the beach to transport them by sea to Juniyah very soon.

No Injuries in American University Bombing

NC280719 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] We were informed by the Information Office at the American University in Beirut a short while ago that an explosive device placed in one of the classrooms in the Knightly Building on the American University campus, went off at 0820 this morning. There were no students in the room, and no one was injured.

PSP Radio Says Salvation Front Still 'Stands'

NC271344 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Radios and news agencies have been reporting that opposition leaders are conducting consultations to form a new national front. Commenting on such reports, sources close to Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], have said the aforementioned consultations are being carried out by the National Salvation Front to assess the Lausanne conference. Such an assessment will help in drawing up ideas for the coming phase. The same sources stressed that the National Salvation Front still stands with its former composition — despite the fact that one of its members has acted prematurely. The sources added that this member will keep its Lebanese and Arab commitments. Meanwhile, the PSP will not be the party that splits the National Salvation Front.

Commenting on the future course of events, the sources said that cease-fire violations — by the sectarian army and Phalangist forces — preclude any political dialogue and obstruct the formation of the constituent committee. In this respect, the same sources called for both a stabilization of the cease-fire and a disengagement of the forces — measures that can verify the government's true desire to hold a dialogue.

Saudi Arabia Asks Al-Hariri To End Efforts

NC221246 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Our radio has learned that Saudi Arabia has asked Rafiq al-Hariri to cease conducting any mediation efforts in its name in Lebanon. This occurred after Saudi Arabia discovered that Al-Hariri did not carry out his mission in earnest, and was one of the reasons behind the sectarian dispute that characterized the Lausanne conference sssions. Because of his material interests, Al-Hariri followed personal aims — a situation unacceptable to Saudi Arabia.

Gunmen Steal Greek Attache's Car in Beirut

NC261338 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Unidentified gunmen have accosted (Nikolas Vasiliadhis), an attache at the Greek Embassy in Beirut. They stole his Mercedes car on As-Sadat Street in Al-Hamra.

Jibshit Inhabitants Clash With Israeli Forces

NC280815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] This morning the inhabitants of Jibshit in the south clashed with the enemy Israeli forces. Several casualties were recorded among the inhabitants when the occupation forces fired on the citizens. An Israeli Force cordoned off Jibshit last night in an attempt to raid it. The inhabitants stood vigil and prevented the force from entering the township, compelling it to retreat. The Israelis are continuing to besiege the township.

Further on Situation

NC280936 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has been informed that the town of Jibshit is now being besieged by the Israeli occupation forces. These forces are shelling the town, whose residents grouped themselves and closed the accesses to the town. Shaykh Shams ad-Din was also informed that there are some casualties. The town is still being shelled.

Israeli Patrol Attacked; Two Israelis Wounded

NC281215 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] In response to the terrorist acts of the Israeli occupation forces against the southern inhabitants, Lebanese National-Resistance fighters this morning attacked an Israeli enemy patrol passing through the town of 'Arab Salim with machine guns and rocket shells. Reports say two Israeli soldiers were wounded. Following this attack, the occupation forces combed the area and arrested a number of citizens.

Bomb Thrown at Israeli Vehicle in Sidon

NC271020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Information Ministry representative in Sidon has reported that a bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle at 1000 today on Corniche al-Bahr in Sidon. The enemy Israeli forces immediately cordoned off the area, sealed off the entrances to Sidon, blocked traffic, and as usual, began a combing and arrest operation. It has been impossible to learn the results of the operation because of the siege imposed by the occupation forces.

Israeli Patrol Crosses Al-Awwali Bridge

NC271058 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] An Israeli patrol has crossed the Al-Awwali Bridge and reached the town of Ar-Rumaylah along the coastal road.

The Israeli Army last night surrounded 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and arrested a number of Palestinians.

Minister Investigating Transmission Trouble

NC271250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Information and Justice Minister Roger Shaykhani has declared that he has initiated an investigation regarding the suspension of transmission of Lebanon radio's Amshit transmission station. He said preliminary information indicates the existence of technical trouble. However, the investigation shows the suspension was due to non-technical reasons. He is prepared to work to solve the problem to ensure the restoration of transmission to its previous state. At the same, the information and justice minister stressed that the state's authority regarding official information media should be complete.

Commentary Scores U.S. Support for Israel

JN271642 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The stands of U.S. imperialism toward the Palestinian question are full of hostility toward the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause. The U.S. strategy has made Israel an ally and a tool it manipulates against the Palestinian people and the Arab national liberation movement.

The United States has supported Israel in various ways. It has supplied military aid, opened its financial vaults to Israel, and stood by Israel on every occasion to prevent the implementation of UN resolutions in support of Arab rights. Not content with this, the United States have worked for the weakening of the Arab ranks by taking some sides from the trenches of the struggle to that of capitulation.

On every occasion, the United States has proven that it is completely biased toward Israel by supporting its ambitions, encouraging its aggressive spirit, and aiding it in expansion. The United States has adopted Israel's positions and ideas. U.S. attempts that have been presented under brilliant headlines, like the search for peace, were not — as President Hafiz al-Asad has said — proposals by the United States as a superpower with a special responsibility in this world, but rather Israeli proposals which sought instead to impose positions, solutions and the fait accompli, as well as entrenching the aggression.

The United States has not been able to base its positions on rights and justice, or to even base its positions on the interests of the United States itself. Instead, it continues to adopt the policy of aggression and support the Israeli policy of expansion with all its might. The United States gave the Arabs only words and talk. U.S. policy has been completely tied to Israeli interests,especially Israeli expansionist interests — interests that are in conflict with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and contradict the resolutions of the United Nations that reject the annexation of land by occupation.

Syria, which is seeking a real peace in the region that will enable the Arabs to regain their rights and stop the Israeli expansion, knows full well that Israel does not seek peace, and that it is an aggressive state which dreams of annexing a large part of Arab land on which to establish greater Israel. Syria also knows that the Zionist entity's expansionist trend can only be deterred by confrontation, struggle and steadfastness.

Syria, which is seeking a just peace, also knows full well that this peace will be achieved through a confrontation with the aggressors, a reliance on the potential of the Arab nation and its struggling masses, and through strong cohesion among the sons of the Arab people. Syria also knows that this peace will not be a U.S. peace that carries capitulation within its folds, and rewards the aggressors for their aggression.

The United States supports the aggressors and stands by their side, and — as President Hafiz al-Asad has said — U.S. officials talk to us about peace, while the factor that most obstructs peace in the region is the policy that the United States pursues.

Syria knows its enemies, and it has proven time and again its ability to confront the aggression because it relies on the Arab masses. Arab Syria will remain a symbol of steadfastness and the attainment of the Arab will. The Syrian decision will be a pan-Arab decision, unobstructed by the unlimited U.S. support to Israel.

AL-BA'TH on Syrian Role in Lebanon, Arab Nation

JN280853 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Leader's Statements and the Nation's Victories," *AL-BA'TH* says:
Several attempts have been made in the past to distort Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon. Such attempts were made by the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation, as well as by certain sides which claim to be Arab. Following the U.S.-Zionist invasion of Lebanon, which has now been officially confirmed as a U.S.-Israeli joint plan that had the approval of certain Arabs, Arab sides which voluntarily placed themselves in the camp of the enemies of Arab national issues are now again actively trying to create a new reality in the region so as to apply the Camp David accords to other Arab countries, and to exert all forms of pressure on those Arab forces which reject such a trend.

Everyone remembers how the trumpets of the new plot used to level accusations against Syria and its pan-Arab policy in Lebanon and the entire Arab region. We must admit here that those attempts would have succeeded were it not for Syria's steadfast stand. Despite all forms of pressure and defamation, Syria quickly succeeded, thanks to the wise and enlightened policies of leader Al-Asad, in turning the situation upside down.

The situation in the region changed radically in the interest of the Arabs and their issues after it had seemed that everything was about to be lost. This radical change came about after Syria had shouldered many material and moral burdens. But, as we said, the wisdom of leader Al-Asad and the maturity of our people's masses deprived the enemies of the nation of any opportunity, and returned everything to its rightful place, to the extent that Syria's enemies have begun recognizing the clever policy of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. Some Arab and foreign politicians, both friend and foe, have confirmed that were it not for President Hafiz al-Asad's political astuteness, the Arab region and its vicinity would have fallen under the U.S.-Israeli umbrella. There is no doubt that the role of the Lebanese nationalist forces and all our friends in the world — especially the USSR — have greatly helped Syria reach this important position not only in the Middle East, but also in the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria's steadfastness — which has, in less than 2 years, succeeded in changing all the balances and employing them in the interest of Arab issues — deserves Arab and international attention now. Instead of making attempts here and there to undermine the victories which Syria has achieved for Lebanon and the Arab nation, the Arabs should back Syria,

because this means backing all Arab issues. Any other move will only serve the enemies of the Arab nation.

Syria knows that its victory with the Lebanese nationalist forces over U.S.-Israeli policy and Arab reactionism will be faced with new conspiratorial attempts. The current moves between the Egyptian, Jordanian and Iraqi capitals, involving Yasir 'Arafat among others, are only part of the U.S.-Israeli plan to abort the victory in Lebanon. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a victory for Syria as much as it is a victory for the Arab nation.

The paper concludes: We and the masses of the nation had expected some kind of an official Arab move toward Syria to reinforce this victory, so as to take the nation to another, more important victory represented by the abrogation of the Camp David accords, prior to achieving the greater victory; namely, the liberation of the occupied Arab territory from the Zionist invaders. At any rate, and as leader Al-Asad affirmed, we in this country will continue to work for revolutionary Arab solidarity against the enemies of the nation. We will not allow a solidarity that is sponsored by the United States and Israel.

Ba'th Official on Iraq's 'Terrorist Activities'

JN272020 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, last night opened the fifth general conference of the National Union of Iraqi Students, which is being held under the slogan: "The struggle of the national union of Iraqi students is a consolidation of our people's struggle to overthrow fascism and establish a unified Arab socialist society."

The opening ceremony was attended by: Ba'th Party National Command members; Iraqi Regional Command members; representatives of the Palestinian Regional Command; the Jordanian Regional Command; representatives from the Lebanese and Jordanian national movements; the secretary of the party's Damascus University branch; the president of the National Union of Syrian Students; members of the leadership of the party's university branch; some members of the Executive Bureau of the national union; members of the pan-Arab front of the Iraqi national movement; representatives of the international and Arab students movements; representatives from the Council of Arab Students Organizations; and the masses of Iraqi and Syrian Arab students.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar delivered a speech, during which he conveyed the greetings of Comrade-struggler Hafiz al-Asad and the political leadership of the country to the people and students of Iraq, hailing their struggle to liberate the fraternal country from the fascist regime in Baghdad. Comrade al-Ahmar denounced the criminal and terrorist activities and practices carried out by the Iraqi regime against the people and students of Iraq, the Arab nation, and especially Syria. He condemned the unjust war waged by Saddam Husayn against the Iranian revolution at a time when it had announced that it fully stands by the side of the just Arab struggle.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that Syria is the principal and only obstacle in the face of all the imperialist and Zionist plans in the Arab region, and that it will thus remain as it had pledged to the Arab and world liberation movements — to always achieve the objectives of the struggling Arab masses. He praised the stands of the world liberation movement, and of the socialist bloc under the Soviet Union. He also praised the struggle and victory of the Lebanese National Forces in foiling the 17 May agreement, and noted Arab Syria's support for these forces in their attempt to reaffirm the Arabism of Lebanon and to preserve its unity and independence.

Speeches on behalf of the African students' union, the preparatory committee of the Jordanian students, the public education conference in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Iraqi national and democratic front were delivered, as was a speech by Abu Yusuf, member of the Iraqi command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The speeches praised Syria's national and pan-Arab role, its struggle in defending the rights and dignity of the Arab nation, and its opposition to all the imperialist and Zionist plans and conspiracies. The speeches also praised Syria's steadfastness under the leadership of its great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and its secretary general, Comrade-struggler Hafiz al-Asad. The speeches hailed the struggle of the students and people of Iraq to rid the country of the fascist regime, and to build the Iraq of progress, democracy and socialism. The speeches also wished success for the fifth students' general conference.

Nuclear Energy Agreement Ratified With USSR

JN271620 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA) — The instruments of ratification of the agreement of cooperation between the Syrian and Soviet Governments, in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy that was signed in Moscow on 1 February 1983, were exchanged this morning.

Muhammad Munib ar-Rifa'i, director of the legal department in the Syrian Foreign Ministry, and Vladimir Yukhin, Soviet ambassador in Damascus, exchanged speeches on this occasion in which Ar-Rifa'i praised the Soviet Union's stand in support of the Syrian Arab peole's struggle for liberating occupied Arab territories and supporting the Palestinian cause under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

For his part, Yukhin expressed his satisfaction with the continued developments in all fields between the Soviet Union and Syria. He praised the great achievements in Syria in all fields, despite the political and economic pressures practiced against it by imperialists and international Zionism. He also praised the great role assumed by Syria for achieving a just peace in the region.

SANA: Jordanian Group Demands Prison Reform

JN261622 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA) — The committees in charge of defending democratic freedoms in Jordan have denounced the

Jordanian authorities' practices against Jordanian political prisoners, and called for their trial and for releasing them immediately.

In a statement to this effect, the committees said that the health of the political prisoners is getting worse because of carelessness, the blackout policy, and the psychological and physical torture practiced by Jordanian authorities against the prisoners. The committees called for saving the lives of the detainees in the Jordanian regime's prisons, and for stopping the detention campaigns and the dangerous violations against the Jordanian national movement and the Palestinian resistance movement.

Jordanian political prisoners declared an open hunger strike on 10 March. In a memorandum from the Al-Mahatta Central Prison in Amman, the committees called for releasing the detainees who were not tried, and cancelling the martial sentences issued against them.

In the memorandum, the prisoners called on the national, democratic and humanitarian forces to support them, work for their release and save their lives. The prisoners held the Jordanian regime responsible for the physical and psychological damage that would result form their hunger strike.

Shamir, Peres Agree on July Elections

TA280908 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0845 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] News from the Knesset: The elections will be held in July. This appears to be the outcome of the meeting between the leaders of the Likud and the Alignment, a meeting which ended a short time ago. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and chairman of the Labor Party Shim'on Peres will meet again today in order to finalize the date of the elections. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav reports:

The heads of the Likud and the Alignment are slowly bridging the differences between them on the date for the elections. The meeting this morning between the prime minister, Arens, Levi and MK Milo, and Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Hayim Bar-Lev and Moshe Shahal, lasted for 1 and 1/4 hours. Following this meeting, it appears that the elections will be held in July. The Alignment suggests holding them at the beginning of the month, and the prime minister suggested holding them at the end of the month. It was decided that later in the day, the prime minister and the chairman of the Labor Party will meet alone to try to bridge this last difference.

It is improbable that this difference of 2 or 3 weeks will foil the attempts of Mr Shamir and Mr Peres to reach an agreement. When this agreement is reached, the legal process will take a very short time, and the government will be able to initiate a Knesset session next week in order to vote on the proposed law in the second and third hearing. By the way, a good atmosphere prevailed during the meeting today. An agreement about the date of the elections will also make it easier for the straying coalition elements to vote for the proposed budget today.

23 July Date Set

TA281335 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1324 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The elections will be held on 23 July. This was decided on in a brief meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres a few minutes ago. Then 23 July is the date that has been set for the next Knesset elections, our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports.

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on Lebanon

TA280725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday to brief the members about the current political picture. He noted that U.S. President Reagan has dropped plans to sell sophisticated Stinger antiaircraft missiles not only to Jordan, but to Saudi Arabia as well. The prime minister also discussed relations with Egypt. This report from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] The prime minister briefed the committee on the goodwill message he sent to President Mubarak to mark the fifth anniversary of the peace treaty. Prime Minister Shamir was bitterly critical of the Egyptian news media for the hostile anti-Israel stereotypes which they present day after day for all the world as though Israel was still an enemy country. Shamir singled out for special criticism the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* and the magazine *MAY*. But Hayim Bar-Lev of the Labor opposition said it is all very well to criticize Egypt, and it deserves it, but Israel itself is not lifting its finger to resume the process of normalization. Nonsense, said the prime minister, after all Israel sacrificed for the peace with Egypt, it is ridiculous to accuse it of indifference to the peace process.

On the situation in Lebanon, Shamir said Israel is finding it difficult to establish security arrangements in the south, because there is no single factor with whom to make a deal. On the other hand, since the Lausanne conference, Israel has found it easier to negotiate with the various factions in Lebanon. Knesset member Yosi Sarid of the Labor opposition said that the UN force, UNIFIL, ought to be given a key role inside the proposed security zone in south Lebanon. The prime minister rejected this outright: Any role for UNIFIL will have to be north of the security strip, Prime Minister Shamir said. Turning to the eastern front, Shamir said the United States had intended to supply sophisticated Stinger antiaircraft missiles not only to Jordan, but also to Saudi Arabia. But after King Husayn's recent declarations both plans were dropped. [end recording]

SHELI To Run in Knesset, Histadrut Election

TA271946 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1933 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 27 Mar (ITIM) — The SHELI council, comprising some 100 representatives from all regions of Israel, met last night, 26 March, in Tel Aviv and decided to run for the upcoming Knesset and Histadrut elections. The main goal will be the establishment of a left wing, dove, broad bloc that would fill the vacuum left by the Alignment. The SHELI council elected Ran Kohen as its candidate for the head of the list.

Peres Sees Navon Playing 'Central Role'

TA271920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Report by Jack Katzenell from the Knesset]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres had a 2-hour meeting but did not reach agreement on a date for the elections. They are to meet again tomorrow. Peres said the government favors September, while the opposition wants elections in May.

[Begin Peres recording] We strongly advocate a short campaign, considering the economic situation of the country, and also in an attempt to save money, national money, party money, and not to exaggerate in the propaganda that goes with an electoral campaign. [end recording]

However, sources in the Labor Alignment and the Likud say both sides are really much closer and are haggling over different dates in July. The Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee also discussed the question of the election date and the special

legislation that will be needed if an early date is chosen. Committee Chairman Eli Kulas, who is from the Likud, said he would not stand for any unnecessary delays, even if his own side is responsible. From the point of view of Shim'on Peres, the earlier the election date which he can obtain, the less chance there will be of a bid by former president Yitzhaq Navon for the party leadership. Peres was asked this evening what role Navon would play in the party leadership during the election campaign.

[Begin Peres recording] I see him playing a central role in a collective leadership of the party. [end recording]

Now that Navon has returned home from Canada, calls have been pouring in from Labor voters, urging that the former president head the Labor list as the party's candidate for prime minister. But among the Labor Knesset members, the prevailing view is that a leadership struggle should be avoided and that Peres should head the list, with Yitzhaq Rabin and Navon in second and third place.

Navon Calls for 'Change of Government'

TA271716 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon returned to Israel this afternoon. He is not yet committing himself regarding his integration into the party, but for the first time since he ended his term in office as president of the state, he says: There must be a change of government. He adds: This is the principal national goal, and the manning of positions in the Alignment is a secondary issue. Our correspondent Moshe Gal was among the reporters waiting for Navon at Ben Gurion Airport:

[Gal] Within less than a week, the airport staff here have witnessed the gathering of dozens of journalists, all waiting for the return of people who may well change Israel's political map. The tense anticipation preceding the arrival of MK Zeigerman before last Thursday's Knesset vote has given way to curiosity regarding the coming moves of former President Yitzhaq Navon. Navon, who cut short his visit to Canada — some say because of the pleas of his supporters in the Labor party — is not about to issue a declaration of intent to the disappointment of the newsmen here. The principal goal now, he stresses — for the first time since he wound up his term as president — is to change the government, which has failed in its policies. Personnel changes in the Labor Party are a secondary matter. He for his part, Navon asserts, will not constitute a problem as far as the composition of the leadership is concerned.

[Navon] What preoccupies me is one question: For some years now I have thought that what is happening in this country, what has been happening in the last few years, is serious, grave - the intensification of internal hatred between the Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities, between towns and kibbutzim, between parties, between religious and secular groups. And I think certain moves were also made, though I will not go into detail now or make a political statement, regarding the economy, the war in Lebanon. [sentence as heard] I believe that it is a duty, a national necessity, to change the government. All the rest, all the rest is secondary to this goal. This means that we must do whatever helps achieve this objective. As for the best way to attain it, I do not know at this point. We will talk, and see; we shall have to. I will have to make an effort in order to reach joint conclusions regarding the best and most effective way to change the government.

POST Reports Projected Election Campaign Costs

TA280730 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] Every Knesset Member will entitle his party to IS8,926,740 in state financing of the forthcoming elections.

The total bill to the Treasury will thus come to IS1,071,208,800.

In addition, each party is permitted to accept campaign contributions of up to one and a half times its funding.

Government Urged To Relent on U.S. Embassy Transfer

TA271123 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Mar 84 p 8

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Oded Granot: "The Battle Over Jerusalem"]

[Text] The argument over the tranfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has in the last few days gone beyond the confines of Israeli-U.S. relations, and has become an issue in the election campaign here.

On one side of the fence stand the two Democratic candidates, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart, who promise to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem if they get the senior post. On the other side is the Reagan administration which was "defeated" in the battle over the sale of Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and is panic-stricken about the initiative emerging in Congress to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem. Reagan is convinced that if he gives in to pressure to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem, he will lose whatever credibility the United States still has among its Arab friends. His aides warn him about a wave of violence against U.S. targets in the Middle East if he transfers the embassy. U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Nicholas Veliotes went to Washington to bolster the administration's fears of what might happen.

Reagan has run into serious trouble. If he gives in to the congressional pressures, the U.S. hold on the Arab world will totally collapse. If he "vetoes" the decision on the Jerusalem issue, he will lose "the Jewish vote."

In its distress, the Reagan administration appealed to the Israeli lobby in Washington. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger tried to persuade leading lobbyists to agree to a package deal whereby the Stinger deal with Jordan would be scrapped in exchange for removing the initiative about Jerusalem. The Israeli lobby, American Israeli Public Affairs Commission, (AIPAC) rejected this proposal. They told Eagleburger that the sale of the

Stingers was doomed, and that is why no deal came about. However, deep inside AIPAC was prepared to soften its position on the issue of Jerusalem. Instead of striving for a binding congressional resolution, AIPAC is prepared to let a non-binding declaration — a congressional "expression of good will" — suffice. Such a resolution would not lead to a head-on confrontation with the administration during an election year.

As far as AIPAC is concerned, such a resolution would be an important asset for exerting pressure on the administration to implement it at a more propitious time, perhaps after the elections. The Israeli Government, however, thinks otherwise. Last Friday, Israel Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne conferred with Tom Lantos, one of the initiators of the draft law about Jerusalem in the House of Representatives, to encourage him to go ahead with the confrontation and strive for a binding resolution on the question of Jerusalem, even at the risk of a presidential "veto."

The Israeli considerations are simple. The Reagan administration may at the last moment be reluctant to cast a "veto" and may come up with a compromise such as opening a U.S. diplomatic representation in Jerusalem, a sort of branch of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, similar to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh which also operates a "branch" in Jidda. Now that 200 members of the House of Representatives support the draft law about Jerusalem, and several dozen Senators have joined them — after Mondale and Hart declared their own positions — we cannot possibly give up, Israel tells its friends on Capitol Hill, adding fuel to "the Jerusalem train" darting down the halls of the House of Representatives.

"Let us not prevent Congressmen from raising their hands on the Jerusalem issue and see how the administration reacts," the Israeli Government says. However, it may very well be that the government has placed its bets too high. Jerusalem is the last "defense line" of U.S. mediation policy in the Middle East after the fiasco in Lebanon, Husayn's slap in the face, and the failure of Reagan's plan of September 1982. Rather than push the Reagan administration into the corner and clash on this issue, the best thing to do at present would be to deepen strategic cooperation and muster moral support in Congress for the Jerusalem issue, and use it like a bill which would be presented to the new administration for payment after the elections.

Reagan Considering 'Liaison Office' in Jerusalem

TA271752 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Amir Oren]

[Text] The Reagan administration is considering opening a "liaison office" of its Embassy in Israel in Jerusalem as a way out of the complex affair of transferring the Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Administration officials and Republican elements close to the administration have recently hinted in talks with Israelis that this solution could satisfy all sides, since it would be presented as an acquiescence to the Israeli Government. It will, however, be explained to the Arabs as a symbolic step, devoid of any actual significance.

This move may well also restore to President Reagan the initiative in the embassy affair — an issue which is threatening to turn into a weapon against him in the fight for Jewish votes here in the United States.

HA'ARETZ Report

TA271812 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] The White House is considering a proposal to open a liaison office in Jerusalem for the U.S. Embassy and so block the legislation aimed at instructing it to transfer the entire embassy to the capital.

At this stage 204 representatives from the House of Representatives support the draft bill [hatza'at hahoq], as well as 27 senators. These figures — especially those from the House of Representatives — are indicative of the proposal's chance of winninga majority. Reagan is working against it, but, at the same time, is preparing a secondary line, according to which he will announce the opening of a branch of the U.S. Embassy in the capital. This proposal will be put forward if the White House arrives at the conclusion that it has lost its chance of blocking the legislation. The White House hopes that the opening of the branch of the Embassy will take the wind out of the sails of the initiators of the draft bill.

It was reported yesterday from the Jewish lobby organization American Israeli Public Affairs Commission (AIPAC) that it has refused to link the administration's decision not to sell shoulder missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia with a promise to stop advocating a transfer of the embassy. It has been confirmed by AIPAC circles that senior administration officials did indeed ask for such a deal to be made, but the organization turned the proposal down.

Reagan Will Veto Decision To Move U.S. Embassy

TA280533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] President Reagan will veto a congressional decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This was stated tonight by sources in the administration to our correspondent Razi Barqay.

A draft resolution on this matter continues to be signed in both houses of Congress, and about half the members of the House of Representatives have already signed it.

The head of the Jewish lobby in the United States rejected the administration claims that the proposed law will harm the U.S. position in the Arab world. He claims that the issue of Jerusalem has been neglected for 35 years and there is no more reason to delay moving the embassy.

Mubarak Condemns Calls To Move Embassy to Jerusalem

TA280641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Egypt's President Husni Mubarak has condemned what he called reckless attempts by some irresponsible groups in the United States to approve the transfer of the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said it would endanger American interests, and praised President Reagan's stand against the move. The Egyptian president added the groups were motivated by cheap gains and weak selfish aims triggered by election fever.

U.S. 'Soothing' Arabs on Embassy Transfer Issue

TA281032 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] The United States has launched a "soothing campaign" in Arab capitals with the aim of making it clear that the U.S. Administration is determined not to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The decision to launch this campaign was made following warnings received in U.S. embassies in Arab and Muslim countries on behalf of the Islamic Conference led by Moroccan King Hassan. The letters stated that the United States will make a grave mistake if it decides on a change in its stance vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

According to instructions from Washington, U.S. ambassadors met with representatives of the governments of the Arab and Muslim countries, and promised them that the Reagan administration will not surrender to pressures to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital or to transfer the U.S. Embassy there.

Parallel to these urgent attempts by the U.S. ambassadors, Secretary of State George Shultz met in Washington yesterday with six ambassadors from Muslim countries and repeated the administration's stance.

In an additional attempt to convince the Jewish community leaders not "to push the President up against the wall" on the Jerusalem issue, U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger met with the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations this week. The White House's liaison official to the Jewish community, (Marshal Berger), and the head of human rights humanitarian affairs in the State Department, Elliot Abrams, participated in this meeting, during which Eagleburger repeated the administration's stance to the effect that the U.S. Embassy transfer to Jerusalem will cause grave damage to U.S. status in the Arab world. According to him, the transfer would obstruct any Washington attempt to serve as a mediator between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Despite the administration's pressures, Israel's friends on Capitol Hill are continuing to enlist supporters for a bill on the U.S. Embassy transfer to Jerusalem, with the intention of bringing about a vote on it as soon as possible.

Government Reacts to Proposed Hassan U.S. Speech

TA270809 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Washington — Israel will demand that either the president or the prime minister be allowed to appear before both houses of the U.S. Congress if King Hassan of Morocco carries out his intention to address Congress in order to speak against the draft law to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. According to reports in Washington based on Arab press reports, King Hassan is contemplating going to Washington at the beginning of April to plead with Congress to reject the draft law which would direct the administration to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. King Hassan plans to go to Washington in his capacity as president of the Islamic Conference.

HA'ARETZ on Effect of U.S. Elections on Israel

TA271400 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 84 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Israel and the Elections to the White House"]

[Text] Regardless of whether Professor Moshe Arens tried to diagnose Caspar Weinberger's psychological problems and of whether we believe in the former's denial, Israeli policymakers agree about the symptoms. The fact is that Israel was not pleased about Weinberger's proximity to the centers of powers in U.S. foreign policy. It appears that if President Reagan wins the elections, Weinberger be in a better position to send chilly winds in Israel's direction. Secretary of State George Shultz is determined to retire after the elections; along with him will disappear the school of thought that raised U.S.-Israeli relations to new heights. Shultz advocated a tough policy regarding Syria, strengthening strategic cooperation with Israel, and encouraging King Husayn to join the peace process while exploiting the split within the PLO. Along with Shultz, the president's inner circle will also be missing Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, two men whose approach to U.S. policy in the Middle East resembles that of the secretary of state.

Experts who have been closely watching developments in Washington warn that positions of presidential senior aides who are sympathetic toward Israel will have been taken by men supporting Weinberger's school of thought. The senior representatives of this latter school, who emphasize the damage suffered by the United States in the Arab world due to its exaggerated intimacy with Israel, are Vice President George Bush and White House Chief of Staff James Baker. If Weinberger realizes his ambition to move over to the State Department, he will apparently be replaced in the Pentagon by a no less staunch conservative than himself: John Tower, the chairman of the Senate's Armed Forces Committee.

If and when Reagan wins another term, he will be 74 years old and it is highly unlikely that he will change his basic and sympathetic orientation toward Israel at that age. However, it

should be remembered that Reagan is a president who largely delegates authority to members of his Cabinet and senior aides. This is not a homogeneous circle. The failure of U.S. policy in Lebanon and the freeze in the peace process are attributed to Secretary of State Shultz's circle. This failure has strengthened the importance of the alternative approach, the one that led to the evacuation of the Marines and produced presidential support for a dialogue with Syria on Lebanon, even at the cost of conducting negotiations over the Golan Heights. A renewed attempt to make a breakthrough in the Middle East, without Shultz and his colleagues, might largely chill the atmosphere along the Washington-Jerusalem axis. In his second term, Reagan would be freed of the menace of the Jewish vote. Soon he will be able to pay attention to the member of his Cabinet with a remote Jewish past.

The recovery of Democrat Walter Mondale has increased his chances to contest the presidency and justifies an analysis of his "Israeli" past. Mondale portrays himself as a successor of the late Hubert Humphrey, the number one friend of Israel in the U.S. political arena for many years. The former vice president has surrounded himself with advisers and speechwriters who are very familiar with the Jewish community. His speeches are saturated with commitments toward Israel whose fulfillment may be urged when the day comes. It seems that Mondale has been exhausting his "Jewish" credit. He used it to remove the objection of the Jewish community to the three-way Israeli-Egyptian-Saudi aircraft deal in 1978. His formula then was: "If I support it, it shows that it does not entail any danger for Israel." He had no qualms about asking Humphrey's widow to tell the Jews that her husband would also have supported the deal.

There was room to expect Mondale to exercise his influence on President Carter to benefit Israel but he did not frequently do that. In his book about Camp David 'Ezer Weizman described Mondale in hilarious words: A kid glove on Carter's iron fist." Moshe Dayan said about him: "I was particularly annoyed with Mondale's role. Each time it appeared that the President was calming down and that we could get down to business, Mondale interfered, undermined the conversation and raised new complaints." In his election campaign, Mondale has adopted a line favoring a resumption of Carter's policy. If he wins, he will seek to revive the issue of the freeze in the peace process riding on the waves of warmth the Jewish community will be sending his way. The implications of such an initiative on bilateral relations will to a great extent depend on the results of the elections in Israel: If Shamir and Arens (the opponents of Camp David) remain in power, the Mondale administration might herald a low in relations. If the Alignment rises to power, a way may be found to cooperate based on a compromise in the eastern front.

Gary Hart, the second candidate who continues in the Democratic race for the presidential nomination, promises a rosy White House for Israel, as it were. He frequently talks about transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and points to his votes in favor of foreign aid to Israel and against the AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia. Observers in Jerusalem who have been analyzing the personalities of the candidates suggest that we should not be overly impressed with Senator Hart's pro-Israeli record. It is feared that deeper strains in his personality might underline President Hart's policy toward Israel. They say that having been born into a devout Evangelical family, Hart might get it into his mind that he is the first Christian sent to establish peace between the Jews and the Muslims. His dissenting views may lead him to make such a move to reduce the U.S. commitment toward Israel. In a recent speech in Michigan, Hart spoke about NATO's structure and suggested that the relative contribution of the United States to this organization should be reassessed. He even spoke in favor of reducing U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf conflict to a minimum. Hart's dissent was also reflected in his principled votes against the expanded formula of U.S. foreign aid. If elected president, it will presumably be difficult for Hart to discriminate in favor of foreign aid to Israel. Analysts of Hart's personality in Jerusalem suggest that one should not get carried away by Hart's smiles and slogans which are merely a superfluous imitation of the late John Kennedy.

Egypt's Khalil Interviewed on Peace Anniversary

TA260807 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Interview with Egyptian Presidential Adviser Dr Mustafa Khalil by anchorman Tzvi Goren by telephone on 26 March — recorded, with Khalil remarks in English]

[Text][Goren] We talked with Dr Mustafa Khalil, who was prime minister at the time of the peace treaty negotiations and who is now Presient Mubarak's adviser.

[Khalil] I always feel every anniversary that a great deal has already been done and that this peace between Egypt and Israel has been accomplished. It is our determination, of course, to strengthen the peace relations between the two countries, and I really do hope that the things that prevailed in the past — especially during the invasion of Lebanon and the incidents which affected, you know, the relations between the two countries — will disappear.

[Goren] Asked about the resumption of the autonomy talks, Khalil said this could happen provided that the Palestinians and Husayn are given some ray of hope to encourage them to join the talks. Without this, they will hesitate to join them. Asked about the Egyptian ambassador's absence from Israel, Khalil said that this cannot harm the chances of resuming the talks. He believes the ambassador was recalled for consultations after the massacres at Sabra and Shatila. Khalil said: We have always thought that the invasion of Lebanon did not serve any good cause, and we hope that the Israeli Government will decide to pull back, provided of course, Khalil emphasized, that security there is guaranteed. Once this happens, there will be no problem in returning the ambassador. Khalil emphasized that the embassy itself operates perfectly.

[Khalil] I think, sure there is a chance, provided, that, you know, a kind of a hope is given to the Palestinians and King Husayn to encourage them to join the peace talks. Unless we do that, you know, they will be very much hesitant to do it.

[Goren — in English] Mr Khalil, how do you see the fact that the

Egyptian ambassador is not any more in Tel Aviv, and don't you feel that this isn't a bit disturbing to the process of renewing the talks, or renewing the dialogue?

[Khalil] Not necessarily, because I think the American ambassador was called for consultations, and he was called after the Sabara and Shatila, you know, massacre was confirmed. I think that our position has always been clear that the invasion of Lebanon really did not serve any good purpose, and we do hope that the Israeli Government will decide to withdrawl, provided that, of course, the security is guaranteed, and I think that once this has really taken place, there will be no difficulty at all that the ambassador will (?resume), but still the embassy is still open and is functioning in a perfect way.

[Goren] Asked about the cold winds blowing from Cairo toward Israel, Khalil said that everything that happens in Cairo is a result of Israeli policy but Cairo has no intention of disrupting the good bilateral relations.

[Khalil] In my opinion, what happened in Cairo was rather, you know, a result of what policies were followed by the Israelis; it was not an intention from the side of Cairo, really, to affect, you know, the on-going of the good relations between the two countries.

[Goren — in English] Mr Khalil, last night we have heard that Iraq is now recommending that the Arab nations renew their relations with Egypt, which were severed following the As-Sadat visit to Jerusalem and the peace treaty. How do you see this development?

[Khalil] Well, I think that this is a positive development towards, you know, especially Israel, if I might say, because the Egyptian position is very clear, that the resumption of relations between Egypt and the other Arab countries will never be on the expense of the Israeli-Egyptian peace, and relations, and...

[Goren] If the Arab countries want to resume their relations with Egypt, this would never be at the expense of relations with Israel, Khalil said, because Egypt is a sovereign country and we insist that no country can tell us what to do, particularly when the issue is an agreement signed and ratified in accordance with international law. The accord with Israel will last forever, Khalil emphasized, and the Arab countries know this.

Finally, President Mubarak was on the Egyptian team that brought about the signing of the peace treaty, and he has expressed himself extremely honestly and sincerely from the beginning. Mubarak insists that there be good bilateral relations, Khalil said.

[Khalil] President Mubarak has expressed himself very frankly that from the beginning he insisted on the good relations between the two countries.

[Goren — in English] Do you foresee a coming visit of President Mubarak to Israel?

[Khalil] Yes, provided that the atmosphere is set for such a visit. I think there is nothing against him coming.

Khalil on Arab Support

TA270732 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2015 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Interview with Egyptian Presidential Adviser Dr Mustafa Khalil by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari "last week"; place not given — videotaped, in English]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Dr Mustafa Khalil, in fact you volunteered to go with President as-Sadat to Jerusalem in November 1977.

[Khalil] Yes.

[Ya'ari] Do you regret this?

[Khalil] Never. Never regret it, and if I reconsidered my position and the happy opportunity I will do it again.

[Ya'ari] I am asking you because there is some disappointment, I believe both in Israel and in Egypt, from the achievements so far made after 5 years of peace between our two countries. People feel that not enough has been achieved now, that more could be done about this. What is your assessment?

[Khalil] My assessment is that it was a historical event in itself, that you find the president of Egypt trying to break the deadlock and then change, you know, the stream of history, where our two countries for four wars — and we had the psychological barriers, which I believe existed at the time — by visiting, you know, the Knesset in 1977, and by showing his willingness to start, and put an end to such an enmity and conclude a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab world, and then establish a comprehensive peace — I think this in itself was worth everything that happened. And I think that concluding the Camp David agreement and then the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is in itself a great achievement, which I think the leaders of the countries who really concluded the agreement have to be congratulated for and commended for.

After the peace treaty has been signed in 1979, I never expected that the relations between Egypt and Israel couldn't meet times of ups and downs. As you know, I am a realistic man and when dealing with the relations between even Egypt and the other Arab countries who are closer to Egypt than Israel. We had our very hard times which started in Baghdad boycotting Egypt. So if we think that by signing an agreement between Egypt and Israel everything will be all right suddenly, and that in the future our relations will not meet ups and downs, this will be an illusion. But the most important thing is that we have to insist on the peace process, we have to insist on the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, we have to insist that we have to solve our differences in a peaceful way, and we have also to insist on being optimistic and give the peace process a chance to flourish and give that small plant a chance, really, to be a kind of big tree.

[Ya'ari] Dr Khalil, you had played a major role in the negotiations leading to the peace treaty, and I would like to ask you: Were you disappointed by the fact that some other Arab state didn't hurry up to join Egypt in the peace process? Were you expecting Jordan or Iraq or even Morocco and Sudan to come along and say: OK, yes, we support the process and we are going to join?

[Khalil] To tell you the truth, I never expected, you know, the other Arab countries to hurry and join the peace process. But what I really expected at the time that if they do not like to join the peace process, they should have stood in a neutral position to the peace process, and leave Egypt to exert, you know, its influence and really take the peace process and try to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. Unfortunately, the other Arab countries, in my opinion, did not at the time understand realistically what Camp David meant.

[Ya'ari] What is the next step to be taken in order to give peace again some momentum?

[Khalil] I think that, you know, we have to agree on some things before I answer your question. That the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel is irrevocable by any of the two sides, and I have to emphasize on this, provided that we respect the text and the spirit of the agreement. Answering your question about what would be taken to try to establish a comprehensive peace in the area, in my opinion I think that we have to encourage the Palestinians, King Husayn, and the Syrians to take part in the negotiations. The second very important step, in my opinion, is that we have to discard the notion that peace can be enforced by military occupation of other countries, because if we accept that principle, then we are opening the door to the times of an irrevocable process of aggression, and by this I mean that the Israeli forces have to be withdrawn from Lebanon because I cannot accept the thesis which was advocated by Mr Sharon that the Israeli army has to extend its arm from central Africa to Afghanistan, or to enforce peace by occupying other countries' land.

[Ya'ari] It seems Egypt had a hard time selling these ideas to other countries.

[Khalil] Yes, we did have a hard time, and I tell you the truth that if I have judged the Israeli position on the face value of the statements of the late Moshe Dayan, then I could have been completely discouraged from sitting and negotiating peace between our two countries. But I always had the conception that statements are completely different from the real position when you sit and negotiate a kind of a complete peace between two countries. Here the atmosphere is different and then people change their ideas and they change their positions.

I think that if Mr Yasir 'Arafat can come to an agreement with King Husayn that would allow King Husayn and the Palestinians to sit and negotiate peace, then there is a big chance that the peace process will be fruitful in the future. In the meantime, I think that as long as we do not give the Syrians a kind of a green signal that something will be done concerning the Golan Heights, then the Syrians will torpedo an agreement that will be reached between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, which is not really in the interest of the peace process.

I don't think that the Syrians will accept solving the Palestinian problem without solving the Golan Heights, because if the Palestinian problem, if we hypothetically think that it can be solved by negotiations that will result from an agreement between King Husayn and 'Arafat, giving a green light to the Palestinians to join the negotiations — we do not know the formula yet — but what will be the position of the Syrians? I think the Syrians will be in a position that they are not militarily capable to free the Golan Heights by war, in the meantime they will be in a very weak bargaining position vis-a-vis the Israelis.

Burg, Meridor on Anniversary

TA260617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Minister Yosef Burg, the head of Israel's autonomy negotiating team, expressed concern about relations with Egypt.

[Begin Burg recording] I believe that the last 2 years were empty years concerning the process of peace. I believe that the Egyptians are wrong because in the joint letter of Mr Begin, President as-Sadat, and President Carter, there was written continuously in a good faith to have these negotiations, and under different pretexts the Egyptians didn't come to the table of negotiations. It's not only what happened in Lebanon, also before this they didn't want to come. I regret it, I regret it first of all because the atmosphere in this region is necessarily one that needs talk between the different partners; and second because also for the Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza it will be a good thing to have a better atmosphere. [end recording]

On the other hand, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor pointed out that the military part of the treaty has been kept with a few minor violations.

[Begin Meridor recording] It is not to be forgotten that we have peace with Egypt for 5 years. It is not to be forgotten that the military annex to the treaty, which is a very important part of it, is generally kept with minor violations here and there. And let us not reduce the existence of peace between Israel and Egypt to a small thing. It is not. [end recording]

Weizman Comments

TA261348 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Telephone interview with 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli defense minister at the time of the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, by anchorman Tzvi Goren on 26 March]

[Goren] Good morning. You were one of the main participants at the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. It has been 5 years since that day. How do you look back on that period?

[Weizman] I look back at it from two perspectives: First, what happened then; and second, what is happening today. If I could do it all over again, if I could go back to the years 1977-1979, there is no doubt in my mind that I would do the same things, with possible minor changes here and there. In principle, those were great days, very momentous and extremely important in the history of Israel. As for the results, there is no question that with regard to some things we had greater expectations, but on the other hand it is better to have what we have now than nothing at all. Today we can travel to Egypt by air, land, or sea; we can see

pictures of Israeli naval ships crossing the Suez Canal; we have embassies in each other's country. Although there is no Egyptian ambassador here, our ambassador is still there. As you may recall, 30 or 35 years ago, peace with an Arab country seemed like an illusion, a dream. So I think we should be pleased with the achievements despite the criticism and the disappointment that we have over certain things.

[Goren] You must be referring to actual Israeli-Egyptian relations, but the peace treaty is actually one part of the agreement you signed at Camp David, which also mentions autonomy. As we have seen, there has been no progress on this part of the agreement. What do you think about this?

[Weizman] This is what I meant by the disappointment. I think it is a pity that this issue has been frozen; I assume it will resurface because it is true that both parties signed a document. There is no question that the issue of Judaea and Samaria and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el — or what is known in English as the Palestinian problem — is currently dormant, but ultimately it will resurface and we will have to solve it. At this point, I will not specify what my view of the solution is.

[Goren] How did the peace agreement affect you personally?

[Weizman] I am not sure I can analyze things in retrospect and tell you how it affected me. It did satisfy some hopes and aspirations that had been until then merely dreams and ultimately it did come about. Look, everyone is convinced that someone who has spent his life dealing with the war, and the killing of soldiers cannot understand peace. I think that to a very large extent exactly the opposite is true. We are the ones who dealt with fighting all our lives, and we are the ones who could conceivably assess things differently from someone who has never dealt with that - although I would not go so far as to say that others attribute greater significance to it, because no one can make a value judgment about someone else's assessment. Therefore, if nothing else, it was an experience and a tremendous effort for someone who all his life had planned how to attack the Egyptian Army to be able, after 30 years of fighting, to sit down with the commanders of that army and plan how to live in peace.

[Goren] When you go to Egypt today, as part of your contacts with the Egyptians and Egypt's leaders, what do you tell them they ought to do to promote peace?

[Weizman] I visited Egypt last August and I will not evade that question. What I would like to recommend to my friends in Egypt — and I have many friends there — is to have patience, to recognize and understand that our situation is totally different from that of the Arab countries. I would reiterate the numerous things and the various angles that we always tell them: namely, that we are a smaller country, a country where the security problem is far more significant; I would point to certain characteristics of our people concerning our past, what we have experienced and the catastrophes that have befallen us. I would state the general fear that perhpas we are taking a step that is rash and could bring a disaster to Israel, which experienced so many catastrophes. Therefore what I usually tell my friends in Egypt is that they should be very patient with us.

[Goren] Finally, 'Ezer Weizman, last night we heard that Iraq recommended that the Arab countries resume their relations with Egypt, severed — as you will recall — as a consequence of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the peace agreement. What do you think about this development?

[Weizman] Look, I think it is absolutely natural for Egypt to have contacts with the Arab countries. The question is what nature they will assume, of course. If these contacts have a negative effect on the peace agreement beyond the present cracks, I think it is not good. However, in general, let us look at this as something positive, and hope that perhaps through Egypt and our contacts with it, it would be possible to make contacts with other Arab countries.

Rosenne on 'Cold Peace'

TA262030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Me'ir Rosenne, believes that now, in the wake of King Husayn's declaration that he would not join the negotiations even if Israel were to halt settlements, we have no partner for dialogue in the Arab world.

In a talk with our correspondent Nicola Rosenbaum, Ambassador Rosenne said that the abrogation of the agreement with Lebanon in his opinion was not a precedent regarding the ties between Israel and Egypt. He expressed regret that Egypt is violating the peace treaty in that it is not returning its ambassador to Tel Aviv, nor developing tourist ties. Still, the ambassador stresses, a cold peace is preferable to no peace at all.

POST on 5th Anniversary

TA260726 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Peace at Five"]

[Text] Most of the political events which contemporary commentators elevate by calling them "historical" turn out, in retrospect, not to deserve that appellation. The peace treaty between Israel and Egypt signed five years ago today is one of the outstanding exceptions to this rule, even if the peace has not, so far, become what either party to it expected and hoped for.

Egypt, under the leadership of Anwar as-Sadat, hoped to remain the pacemaker in shaping the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Conscious of the political — indeed, the historical — weight of the decision to accord Israel legitimacy, to abandon the effort to subdue the Zionist state by force or to compel it to yield to Arab demands, As-Sadat embarked upon a course of attaining his goals by diplomatic means. Recognition of Israel, not only de facto, but de jure; to acceptance not only of its existence as a fact, but of its right to exist, was the necessary corollary. That recognition was what As-Sadat called the breaking down of the psychological barriers between the countries, which he initiated by his visit to Jerusalem in November 1977 and concluded with the Camp David accords and the peace treaty signed five years ago.

It is this recognition, this acceptance of Israel's legitimacy, which gives lasting historical significance to the tripartite handclasp between As-Sadat, Menahem Begin and Jimmy Carter given years ago on the lawn of the White House.

This recognition — a goal for which Israel struggled for more than three decades — remains irreversible, and unaffected by the disappointment of Egypt and Israel that the peace momentum has ground down.

Under the leadership of Mr Begin, Israel hoped to nudge Egypt into a separate peace, into neutralizing the leading Arab nation militarily and politically in exchange for the return of Sinai and the economic advantages of non-belligerency and access to American aid. The hope was that other Arab countries would in time follow Egypt's lead and abandon the vain attempt to destroy Israel by force, leaving diplomacy as the only course — and that such a process could evolve without Israel's yielding on the problem of the Palestinians.

The disappointment and frustration with the present state of the peace in both Cairo and Jerusalem reflects the fact that neither side sufficiently understood the goals, motivations and constraints of the other. The late As-Sadat, acting on the assumption that Begin was a strong leader and that a strong leader can be made to yield what a weaker government cannot, misunderstood Begin's ideological commitments and political constraints. Begin, assuming that As-Sadat was tired of bleeding Egypt for the sake of the Palestinians, believed that Egypt would de facto settle for a separate peace and abandon its leading role in the Arab world.

Of the three architects of the peace between Israel and Egypt, one is dead, the other has become a recluse, and the third is off the political stage. The peace process, such as it is, is now in the hands of others. Basic interests and short-term political considerations will no longer be swept aside by the historic vision of the leaders who made the initial breakthrough.

There is, however, an asymmetry in the genuine long-term interests of the two countries that should shape the peace between them. Egypt accuses Israel of double-dealing, of circumventing the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with regard to the Palestinian problem. But Egypt is certainly aware that on these issues Israel is deeply divided. If Egypt has opted for diplomacy, it should realize that refusal to normalize the peace is wholly ineffective as an instrument of pressure on Israel. The contrary would achieve more. Equally, the freezing of the peace is not likely to help Egypt back into its role of leadership among the Arab countries.

As for Israel, it seems that the historic significance of its recognition by the leading Arab nation is not always sufficiently acknowledged. The same holds true with regard to the fact that a decade has passed since the last shot was fired in anger on our southern border. Instead, all too often all too many note the price paid for this peace — the price of returning Sinai and the oilfields, the price of our military redeployment, and the like. What is forgotten is that before we paid that price, we paid with human lives in war after war just to achieve what even this cold peace has given us — recognition and security.

Moreover, Israel must recognize that Egypt, even if temporarily not the leader of the Arab countries, remains the chief claimant to that role. Its place in the history of the Arab national movement, its size, geopolitical location, and military power make that claim a constant. Egypt cannot maintain that claim and step out of its involvement in the Palestinian problem. Any attempt to keep the peace with Egypt separate must fail on that count.

When this is understood here, and when Egypt understands that a cold peace is the opposite of wisdom, the hopes ignited five years ago will obtain more tangible fulfilment.

MA'ARIV Expresses 'Disappointment'

TA251008 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Mar 84 p 8

[Second editorial: "Five Years"]

[Text] Everyone who attended the ceremony on that chilly spring day 5 years ago on the White House lawn — at which the Israeli prime minister, the U.S. president, and the Egyptian president linked their arms after signing the first-ever peace agreement between Israel and an Arab country — anyone who could sense the special atmosphere that prevailed during the state dinner held that day, harbors quite a bit of disappointment today.

Nonetheless, it is highly questionable whether a politician or a party running for election now could attract many votes with the slogan: "Peace has been forfeited and wasted." The importance of the first peace agreement signed between Israel and an Arab country notwithstanding, and despite the sadness that so many of the hopes we have cherished since that spring day in the U.S. capital have been crushed, we must not ignore the fact that even then, on 26 March 1979, everyone knew that the road to complete peace between Israel and the Arab countries would be long and difficult.

The three leaders who signed that document — Menahem Begin, Jimmy Carter, and Anwar as-Sadat, were blessed with the same ability: All three could "gloss over" difficulties and "smooth out" great rifts by scattering optimistic catchwords to all sides. It is true that such an ability allows for speedy progress instead of doubts and getting nowhere and creates the famous "momentum" which becomes a driving force in itself. Yet this ability is limited and there is definitely room to fear that the fundamental problems that have not been solved will once again disrupt "the peace process."

Everyone knew, for example, that the "Camp David agreement" did not include a formula acceptable to all parties for a true solution of the problem of the Palestinians in Eretz Yisra'el. All those sitting on the White House lawn knew full well that the Israelis and the Egyptians had diametrically different interpretations of the resolution to the "autonomy" issue on which the peace agreement was based. In meetings held that same day between Israeli and Egyptian correspondents at the "Hilton" it became crystal clear that the differences of opinion on this and other issues would put the implementation of the peace agreement in great jeopardy over the coming years.

Yet even if the hopes have not fully materialized, and although some of the fears that lurked in the back of people's minds on the day the peace agreement was signed have assumed even greater dimensions, this does not mean that we must not welcome the agreement today or feel grateful to all those who contributed to bringing it about.

HATZOFE: Full Peace 'Impossible'

TA270550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HATZOFE* believes that perhaps we could have considered something less than full peace with Egypt, for which thereturn would also have been something less than handing over allof the Sinai. Then there would have been room for hope for improved relations on the basis of what we would still have in our hands. Realistically, the present situation is the same as the scenario outlined above, where there exists something less than full peace, in return for which territories — although not all the territories — are being returned. Facts in the field have also proved that full peace is impossible because of the Arab world's pressure on any Arab country that signs a peace with Israel. Under such pressure, it is difficult for an Arab country to pursue its own course for long.

Disturbances in Ramallah on Peace Anniversary

TA260945 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] There were disturbances and school studies were disrupted in the Ramallah area this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that students from Baytuniya near Ramallah interrupted their studies and went out to the streets to demonstrate against the peace treaty with Egypt, signed 5 years ago. They also protested the fact that the city council has resumed its ties with the Civilian Administration. There were similar occurrences in other high schools in Ramallah as well. When the security forces arrived, the students dispersed.

ALGERIA

Further Reportage on Yugoslav Official's Visit

Algiers Arrival Statement

PM251858 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20 Mar 84 p 1

[APS report: "President of LCY Commission for International Cooperation in Algiers"]

[Text] Algiers — Mr Dusan Dragosavac, member of the LCY Presidium, and president of the Commission for International Cooperation, arrived in Algiers yesterday afternoon for a 5-day official visit to Algeria at the FLN's invitation.

Mr Dragosavac was welcomed at Houari Boumediene airport by Mr Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat for Foreign Relations, cadres from that section, and also by Yugoslav Ambassador to Algiers Mr Faik Dizdarevic.

In a short statement to the press Mr Dragosavac said that the LCY and FLN have very good traditional relations and that the two countries also have fruitful cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, especially within the Nonaligned Movement.

The president of the LCY Commission for International Cooperation added that his talks with the Algerian leaders will relate to ways and means of strengthening bilateral relations and to current international problems. These talks will also relate to preparations for the holding of the Mediterranean progressive parties' conference, which will take place in Belgrade next June, Mr Dragosavac concluded.

Text of Joint Communique

PM281315 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Mar 84 p 2

[APS report: "Cooperation Agreement for 1984-1985 Signed"]

[Text] Algiers — At the end of the official visit made to Algiers by Mr Dusan Dragosavac, a joint National Liberation Front [FLN]-League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] communique was issued yesterday.

The text of the communique is as follows:

At the invitation of the FLN Central Committee, a large LCY delegation headed by Mr Dusan Dragosavac, member of the LCY Presidium, and president of the Commission for International Cooperation, made an official visit to Algeria from 19 through 24 March 1984.

During its visit the LCY delegation was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, and Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and chief of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat.

It also visited the provinces of Medea and Ouargla, where it inspected socioeconomic achievements. Similarly, it obtained information from the militants in those provinces on the action taken by the FLN grassroots structures at political, social, economic, and cultural levels.

The LCY delegation had a series of talks with an FLN delegation headed by Mr Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat for External Relations.

The discussions which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and deep mutual understanding made it possible to carry out a broad examination of relations between the two parties, the development of cooperation between the two countries, and to analyze the international situation, especially in the Mediterranean.

The two delegations noted with satisfaction that multifaceted cooperation between the two parties and the two countries' mass and sociopolitical organizations continues to be strengthened, thus reflecting the desire of the two political leaderships to promote increasingly broad cooperation. Similarly, they welcome the positive development of Algerian-Yugoslav cooperation in the two peoples' interest. In this framework the FLN and LCY reiterated their desire to give this cooperation a dimension and quality which characterize the political and friendly relations uniting the two countries.

The two parties exchanged information on the results of the 12th LCY Congress and the Fifth FLN Congress, and the tasks they assigned themselves in the framework of their people's emancipation and the strengthening of their independence.

The FLN and LCY welcome the new and important prospects which the lines laid down by those congresses offer the two parties.

Nonalignment: Safegaurding the Movement's Unity of Action and Authentic Principles

The analysis of the international situation gave the two delegations the opportunity to express their acute anxiety at the current very complex situation and the serious problems which threaten peace and security in the world. The dangers posed by the policy of force, pressure, and aggression, the stepping up of the arms race, the creation of new areas of crisis, and the exacerbation of existing ones were highlighted. It was noted in particular that the international economic crisis is one of the main causes of the instability in international relations, damaging the developing countries in particular.

The two parties emphasized the importance and necessity of involving all the progressive, democratic, and peace-loving forces in the struggle to ease tension and solve the problems in the world. With this in mind, the role of the nonaligned policy and movement as a nonbloc factor was highlighted.

The two parties consider that the Nonaligned Movement must persevere in its efforts to overcome the present grave situation and to implement the decisions of the seventh New Delhi summit relating to peace, security, independence, disarmament, solving

crises, decolonization, the establishment of the new international economic order, cooperation and so forth. The importance of joint action by Yugoslavia and Algeria to safeguard the movement's unity of action and authentic principles was emphasized by the two parties.

Underlining the situation in the Mediterranean Basin, the FLN and LCY expressed their anxiety at the redeployment of foreign forces and the foreign interference which are reflected by the strengthening of fleets, the reactivation of bases, the conclusion of military agreements, provocations and pressures against the nonaligned countries in the region, and the attempts to counter the process of decolonization and peoples' liberation.

In this framework the FLN and LCY reaffirmed the indivisible nature of security in Europe and the Mediterranean and will continue to work to make the Mediterranean Basin a lake of peace, in which cooperation among the Mediterranean countries will continue to be the most appropriate guarantee of the establishment of a true peace and respect of national sovereignty and independence.

They hailed the forthcoming conference of Mediterranean progressive forces which wil be held shortly in Belgrade. The two parties think that in the present difficult situation, this meeting will provide an opportunity for the progressive forces to have consultations and examine joint initiatives to counter the dangers hanging over the region.

Fruitful and Equitable Cooperation Among All Nations

The examination of the situation in northwest Africa enabled the delegations to express their apprehension in the face of the threats to peace and stability in this area. They stressed that the West Sahara problem is a question of decolonization and that the only solution is implementation of OAU Resolution 104 adopted at its 19th summit, which calls on Morocco and the Polisario to start direct negotiations for the implementation of the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

The solving of this problem would make a positive contribution to building the Greater Arab Maghreb, which accords with the aspirations of the peoples of the region.

With regard to the Middle East question, the two parties reiterated their unconditional support for the Palestinian people who, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, are struggling to win back their inalienable rights to establish their own independent state on their own territory. In addition they recalled that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East implies the complete withdrawal of the Zionist troops from the occupied Arab territories, including the participation of Jerusalem and the PLO in all negotiations. The FLN and LCY expressed their support for Lebanon's progressive and democratic forces in their fight to safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity, national unity, and Arab nature.

The two parties believe that the situation in the eastern Mediterranean has deteriorated following the creation of an independent Turkish psuedo-state in the northern part of Cyprus. They feel that the solution to the Cypriot problem requires respect for that country's national integrity, unity, independence, and nonaligned status, in keeping with the UN resolutions, on the basis of intercommunal equality and without any foreign interference.

The two delegations expressed their acute concern at the aggravation of the fratricidal conflict between Iran and Iraq, which, while weakening the Nonaligned Movement, is encouraging hegemonistic interference in the region. They urgently appeal to the warring sides to end hostilities and, through negotiations, find a solution in keeping with the two peoples' interests.

Turning to the situation in southern Africa and in Latin America, the two parties expressed their support for the Namibian and South African peoples and their vanguard, the South-West Africa People's Organization and the African National Congress, and for the frontline countries in their confrontation with the South African regime's aggressive and racist policy.

The two parties expressed solidarity with the Latin American and Caribbean peoples who are still laboring under the yoke of dictatorship and fascism.

In view of the deterioration in the international political climate, the FLN and LCY believe that the advent of real detente and universal peace still depends on the democratization of international relations, the radical transformation of economic and financial relations, especially by the promotion of South-South cooperation, and on recourse to global negotiations for the establishment of fruitful and equitable cooperation among all nations in implementing a new international order. This course will help solve the deep crises hindering the dawning of an age of security, peace, and progress.

The FLN and LCY welcomed the frankness which characterized their talks and the positive results which their meeting produced.

At the end of their talks, the FLN and LCY signed a cooperation agreement for 1984-1985.

French Socialist Jospin Holds Press Conference

PM261856 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 Mar 84 p 3

[APS report: "The Desire To Cooperate and the Feeling of Mutual Respect Between Our Two Countries Are Considerable"]

[Excerpts] Algiers — PS [French Socialist Party] First Secretary Lionel Jospin gave a press conference in Algiers early yesterday afternoon which was attended by the representatives of the national and international press.

During that conference Mr Jospin talked about the development of relations between the FLN and PS, problems of Algerian immigrants in France, the situation in the Mediterranean, in the West Sahara, and in Lebanon, and other questions of common interest.

Mr Jospin left Algiers late yesterday afternoon at the end of a 24-hour visit to Algeria. He was seen off by Mr Abderrazak

Bouhara, member of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat and chief of the FLN Foreign Relations Department.

"The PS and the FLN should not be complacent about the interstate relations which exist between France and Algeria and which have been good, especially since the impetus given to them by your president's visit to France," PS First Secretary Lionel Jospin said at the press conference he gave in Algiers yesterday.

"The FLN, which holds the political responsibility in Algeria, and the PS, as the main majority party, must continue discussions and political talks at the highest level," the FLN's guest added.

With regard to dsicussions on international matters, the PS first secretary said that he and his Algerian interlocutors examined the situation in Africa, especially in the West Sahara, the Near East, and the Iraq-Iran conflict. "In this context," he said, "we often have similar positions, even though the two countries have different geographical positions and special traditions."

With regard to Polisario-PS relations, Mr Jospin recalled that the PS advocated self-determination for the Saharan people. "Moreover," he said, "over the past few years the PS has established discussions and exchanges with the Polisario. We do not think that force can solve the West Sahara problem, and a military solution is dangerous both to those who try to use it and also to the region's stability," he added, before concluding on this subject by stressing that the solution must be based on the OAU resolutions and take account of the will of the population of that territory."

With regard to the situation in the Mediterranean, the PS first secretary stressed the need to think about economic development on the two sides of the Mediterranean and to promote trade among the Mediterranean countries. With regard to peace and security, Mr Jospin said that "we are fully prepared to discuss matters which may reconcile viewpoints and make the presence of military forces — especially those from outside the region — less obvious and less threatening."

Questioned on the situation in Lebanon and his party's stance, Mr Lionel Jospin said that the PS is anxious to preserve Lebanon's unity, integrity, and sovereignty. "The PS thinks that that will be impossible without a considerable effort by the Lebanese themselves," he said.

Before concluding his press conference, Mr Lionel Jospin stressed that he had observed during his talks with the Algerian leaders, that relations are good between the two countries and at the level of political leaders, particularly between the two presidents.

"The desire to cooperate, and the feeling of mutual respect are considerable. Perhaps what inspires the policies should enrich the administrations on both sides. The administration must follow, as they say," he concluded.

Prime Minister Discusses Development Conference

LD241121 Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers 24/03/84 (APS) — Results of the second national conference on development (28-29 February) were examined on Thursday during a press conference made by Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister, supply member [as received] of the Politburo.

In an introducing declaration, Abdelhamid Brahimi dealt with recommendations resulting from the National Conference on Development, which were examined by the Council of Ministers.

The great axes of these articulations are centered, the prime minister announced, on five essential demands aiming at the carrying on of efforts underway for a greater valorization of human and material potentialities, an improvement of performances of the national productive apparatus and a better control of management structures.

It is, the prime minister said, to reinforce the planning and the coordination at all the levels and all the fields, "for [word indistinct] and then a greater efficiency of developments actions and management", taking always in consideration, he added, the necessity of an ordered and continuous mobilization of all the country's human resources. [paragraph as received]

The third aim of work developed by Abdelhamid Brahimi concerned this necessary control of planning and financing of the operations of the external commerce "by an effective promotion of exports and by a more judicial resort to imports and external capacities of expertise and achievement".

These recommendations also evoke the necessity to carry on efforts of decentralization of administrative, financial and commercial enterprises and services and a more adequate distribution of means as well as the carrying on of actions aiming at better meeting needs of the population and youth in particular.

LIBYA

Romanian Vice President Manescu Visits Tripoli

LD242301 Tripoli JANA in English 1912 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Manea Manescu, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and the Vice-President of the State Council in the Socialist Republic of Romania, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived here this evening.

Received by Az-Zarruq Rajab

LD271526 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the General People's Congress, midday today received Manea Manescu, vice president of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Discussed at this meeting were the ways and means of

strengthening existing bilateral cooperation relations in all spheres, as well as assessment of the results of joint ventures undertaken by the two friendly countries.

Palestinian Officials Arrive in Tripoli

LD271456 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar Talal Naji, and Muhammad Khalifah, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Samir Ghawshah, general secretary of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, this afternoon arrived in Tripoli.

Egyptian 'Fears' over Situation in Sudan Portrayed

LD241614 Tripoli JANA in English 1510 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The current situation in Sudan has had an effect on the Egyptian regime as the latter began adopting a series of military measures to protect what a high-ranking Egyptian official called the national security of Egypt.

The head of the Egyptian regime himself did not conceal the nature of this effect on his regime and has began to fear the widespread of [as received] these repercussions on him, to a point that impelled him to call in America as U.S. AWACS and other support aircraft arrived from the U.S. to Egypt. The head of the Egyptian regime announced that the AWACS aircraft will continue to use Egypt's air space, in light of the development of the situation in Sudan.

In light of the atmosphere of tension which the Egyptian regime is undergoing came [phrase as received] Thursday's meeting between Husni Mubarak and Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. envoy to the region, a meeting which was attended on the Egyptian side by Kamal Hassan 'Ali, the foreign minister, Usamah al-Baz, the first deputy at the Foreign Ministry, while on the American side it was attended by Ambassador Silverman, the U.S. foreign department (?adviser) and by the U.S. ambassador to Cairo.

The talks (?according) to information from the Egyptian capital, concentrated on the Egyptian regime's fears in light of the current situation in Sudan as well as ways to facilitate a wider U.S.-Egyptian military intervention in Sudanese territory.

MAURITANIA

UTM Statement Assails Arrests, Condemns Haydala

LD281218 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 28 Mar (MAP) — Ten people have been arrested in Mauritania, including the secretary general of the Mauritanian Workers Union (UTM), Kory Ould Hmeitti, in the aftermath of the school disturbances in recent weeks. It is worth noting that the Nouakchott authorities carried out an extensive campaign of arrests after these disturbances.

In Paris, the Secretariat General of the Mauritanian National Unity Movement issued a statement strongly condemning what is being carried out by the dictator Haydala with the aim of turning our territories into a battlefield for the Western Sahara issue. The statement added that Ould Haydala's recognition of the so-called Saharan Republic is in contradiction to the commitments made by the Committee for National Salvation, and will do nothing but plant the seeds of disunion in the ranks of the Mauritanian people and in the region as a whole. The Secretariat General of the Mauritanian National Unity Movement believes that it is due to this that it fully supported the demonstrations that took place in the northern and southern parts of the country and openly rejected Mauritania's bias toward the Polisario. Finally, the statement demanded the resignation of "the traitor" Ould Haydala so that a new Mauritania — a cradle of peace and justice — could emerge, and for the sake of its independence and national harmony under democracy.

Government Confirms Arrests

LD272232 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] An official source confirmed today to the Mauritanian press agency that a group of people were arrested in recent days. They constitute the leadership of a secret organization aimed, with the collaboration of hostile foreign sources, at disturbing the security and stability and hence at damaging the [word indistinct] unity and independence of the country.

The source adds that this organization, which was behind the recent disturbances that occurred in some secondary institutions, was long observed by the national security authorities.

It was proven today, through documents and financial lists and correspondence and so forth that this organization was dealing with foreign countries hostile to Mauritania, and with some mercenary Mauritanians whose agency to these countries has been proved and who are fleeing justice.

The source confirmed that the persons whose involvement in this treason has been proved by evidence were arrested.

We would like to point out that more detailed information will be issued on this matter in due course.

Libyan Backing Alleged

AB280800 Paris AFP in English 0419 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Nouakchott, March 28 (AFP) — The leader of Mauritania's central labor body, Kory Ould Hmeitti, is among a dozen people arrested during inquiries into the activities of alleged Libyan agents held responsible for [word indistinct] agitation in the country in the past few weeks, informed sources said here Tuesday. [Words indistinct] those detained were viewed as the leaders of a pro-Al-Qadhdhafi movement and reportedly had documents proving their links with Libya in connection with a plan to destabilize Mauritania. They had allegedly received money from Libya to finance their activities, the sources said.

Government officials here have, however, refrained from naming Libya openly.

MOROCCO

Government, Polisario Envoys on Upcoming OAU Summit

LD241518 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Moroccan Ambassador to France Youssef ben Abbes was yesterday the guest of the Euro-African press. On that occasion he announced that Moroccan Prime Minister Karim Lamrani will visit Paris next month, during which matters of cooperation between Paris and Rabat, in particular that of the return of immigrant workers to their country, will be discussed.

Journalists obviously were keen to interview the Moroccan diplomat on the issue of the possible postponement of the OAU summit in Conakry, a postponement already spoken of by the ad interim OAU secretary general, Peter Onu. Interviewed by (Bernard Nageotte), Ben Abbes did not beat around the bush: If the SDAR is present at the Conakry meeting, Morocco will leave the OAU:

[Begin recording] [Ben Abbes] If the SDAR admits that it will sit in the OAU, then we will leave, perhaps not alone but together with our friends. We have proposed a referendum in order to solve the problem. We have left it with the OAU to organize because we have accepted all its decisions with regard to OAU and UN control. If the referendum is not now organized, it is not our fault. In any case, we will not leave the Sahara. We will remain there, and nobody will make us leave.

[Nageotte] Will there be internal elections in Morocco before the end of the year despite a possible failure in Conakry?

[Ben Abbes] Well, you know, elections were postponed because of the referendum, which normally should have taken place before 31 December. But if the referendum does not take place, we will see what happens before the summit. You know, the elections will take place before the session normally planned for next October. [end recording]

In Paris this morning the Polisario representative in France, Fadel Ismail, answered the Moroccan ambassador by stressing the main point advocated by the latest OAU summit — direct dialogue between Sahraouis and Moroccans:

[Begin Fadel Ismail recording] There cannot be 36 true solutions to ending the war. The stopping of the war must go through one channel — that of direct talks between the Polisario and Morocco. If Morocco truly desires peace — a fact not borne out by realities — why does it refuse to negotiate with the Saharan Republic and with the Polisario? The negotiations are merely a way of achieving the cease-fire. Morocco's contradictory actions reveal its intentions. While claiming to be ready to organize the referendum, it reiterates that Morocco is in the Sahara and will remain there. [end recording]

Interviewed on the possible postponement of the OAU summit, the Polisario representative in France stressed that it is not a question of principle. Here are the explanations given by Fadel Ismail, also interviewed by (Bernard Nageotte):

[Begin recording] [Fadel Ismail] The postponement or even the nonholding of the summit is a false problem. The essential issue is the attitude of Morocco, which blocks everything by refusing to contribute to the OAU's peace efforts. Morocco refuses to implement this peace plan; it refuses dialogue and is even acting against peace by choosing to carry out since the beginning of the year the policy of painting things as black as possible, thus opening the way to an escalation of war in the countries of the region and to the internationalization of a simple matter of decolonization. I think that the Guinean president must make his mind up soon and choose between Africa and Hassan II.

[(Nageotte)] If the summit is indeed held in Conakry, will you attend?

[Fadel Ismail] The Saharan Republic is a full member of the OAU, it enjoys the support of a large majority of African states, and if the Saharan Government deliberately abstained from participating in the 19th summit, this was only provisionally. We have stepped up our goodwill initaitives, we have shown exemplary cooperation with the OAU, but we cannot make concessions indefinitely. Can such a summit be held without the SDAR? [end recording]

Algerian Support for Accords With RSA Decried

PM271444 Rabat AL'ALAM in Arabic 20 Mar 84 p 2

[L.'Abd al-Khaliq article: "Spotlight"]

[Text] It is not strange that Algeria has come out in support of the agreements between South Africa's racist regime and Angola and Mozambique, under which Maputo and Luanda are committed to end the African National Congress' struggle and operations against the policy of racial isolation and discrimination and suspend SWAPO's armed struggle for the independence of Namibia.

To quote the newspaper *AL-MOUDJAHID*, all that is left for Algeria to know is whether or not South Africa will honor these agreements and "give Angola, Mozambique, and all progressive states in the area a chance to establish the desired stability."

Algeria's real attitude toward the African nationalist movements against racism and racial injustice has now been exposed. It is an attitude reflecting the Algerian rulers' flagrant disavowal of the OAU's Charter, principles, and resolutions, which reject any conciliation with the racist regime of South Africa.

This attitude is in complete harmony with the Algerian rulers' African policy, which is based on supporting imaginary movements which exist only in their own minds and on withholding aid from the real movements struggling for Africa's just causes.

To understand Algeria's defense of the capitulationist agreements imposed by South Africa on Luanda and Maputo,

one should remember the visit paid to Angola and Mozambique by Algerian Minister Djelloul Bakhti Nemiche. He made his country's support for their alliance with Pretoria conditional on their willingness to play a greater role in the Algerian circle opposed to legitimacy in Africa and thus to plunge the OAU into more false tension.

If Algeria has made a habit of raising fabricated issues and avoiding the real and serious issues of the black continent, the Africans are called upon to resist such conduct, which strikes at the very heart of African unity.

SUDAN

Numayri Says Evaluation of Omdurman Attack Underway

JN271117 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, March 27, (SUNA) — President of the Republic and chairman of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) has declared that Sudanese delegations have started contacting "the Sudanese sons outside." The evaluation of the Omdurman attack will continue and a strategic interpretation for the situation in the region would be conducted, Numayri pointed out, stating that a study in this respect would be issued in a book which will be published by the Institute of the Strategic Studies within two weeks.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ireland

JN281022 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum Mar 28 (SUNA) — The Government of Democratic Republic of Sudan and the Government of Ireland being desirous of promoting and enhancing the existing friendship and cooperation between their two countries have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level and exchange diplomatic representatives.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Leader Interviewed on Current Situation

PM231535 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Mar 84 p 25

[Interview with Eritrean Liberation Front Executive Committee Chairman 'Abdallah Idris by Mahir 'Abd ar-Rahman in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: May we begin by inquiring about the present situation in Eritrea?

Answer: The confrontation between us and Ethiopia is continuing and is at its fiercest in certain areas. In the battles which began in western Eritrea in mid-January the Eritrean revolution's forces managed to liberate three towns. We also took prisoner 154 enemy soldiers, not to mention the 500 Ethiopian soldiers who fled into Sudan. The Ethiopian Government, however, is still bent on liquidating the revolution militarily. It insists on this military option. We as a revolution, having discerned certain changes in Ethiopia, have decided that there is a need for direct negotiations to achieve self-determination for the Eritrean people. That is the aim of our struggle. If the regime refuses, then we have to stand fast and struggle for self-determination for the Eritrean people. That is the aim of our struggle. If the regime refuses then we have to stand fast and struggle for self-determination and full national independence.

Efforts are under way to unite Eritrean ranks. We will hold a conference around the middle of this month to sign an agreement providing for the merger of the Eritrean revolution's forces. Only one group is responsible for delaying this unity: The Popular Liberation Forces group, which had been invited to attend an organizational conference aimed at laying the foundations for the unification of all the groups in one single organization. We shall be meeting on the 10th of this month to discuss ways of implementing our agreement.

Question: We have noticed that the Eritrean revolution's forces can sometimes recapture entire towns from Ethiopian hands, but they soon abandon them. How do you explain that?

Answer: We do not care to stay in these towns. Liberating towns and driving the Ethiopian forces out of them is part of our tactics. It is not our aim to hold on to the towns and to set up administrations in them. Our aim is to influence the enemy forces and their morale and to make them feel that it is not easy for them to return to the towns from which they have been expelled.

Question: Bearing in mind the various internal difficulties in Ethiopia, are we to understand from your military tactics that the Eritrean revolution does not have sufficient capabilities to liberate all Eritrean territory?

Answer: Eighty percent of Eritrean territory has been liberated and is in the hands of the revolution, and that includes some large and small towns. We are engaged in a war of attrition against the fortified towns still in Ethiopian hands. We liberate the small and weak towns because we do not want to be on the defensive and because we want to be able to launch offensives. We do not care to stay in these towns because we fear for their inhabitants and because we do not want to be on the defensive. Ours is a revolutionary war against a state.

Question: How does the revolution obtain arms and supplies?

Answer: We sometimes find it is more difficult to get supplies than it is to get arms. Arms are not a problem, especially because we have vast land and sea boundaries.

Question: Can you, with the weapons in your possession, face the advanced Soviet weapons of the Ethiopian Army and the military experts supporting that Army?

Answer: These things you mention are there, but we are fighting a popular liberation war and our movements are flexible. We strike at specific targets and at specific times. Such operations affect morale.

Question: Has dialogue with the Soviets been discounted completely?

Answer: Since 1978 we have received two invitations to visit the Soviet Union, but there was disagreement between us over a central point.

Question: What is that point?

Answer: It concerns the question of Eritrean national independence. The Soviets see Eritrea's independence as an independence within the Ethiopian state. We have expressed reservations regarding this approach, because we have our own independent entity. Even when the United Nations linked us to Ethiopia it did so on the basis of a federation. That federation, it is known, was a one-sided federation imposed by Ethiopia. The Soviet attitude at the time was better than the attitudes of others. Things changed when the regime in Addis Ababa changed and demonstrated a willingness to do anything for the Soviets.

Question: We do not understand the Soviet idea. Could you explain it to us?

Answer: It is incomprehensible indeed. They say that if we want them to mediate between us and Ethiopia then we must agree to remain a part of the Ethiopian state. We ask: How is that to be? As an autonomy, federation, or confederation? They have not specified. They just want us to agree to be a part of Ethiopia.

Question: How do you assess the revolution's relations with the Arab states?

Answer: Most Arab states support our cause and sponsor it in international circles, but some Arab states are siding with Ethiopia against us and are fighting alongisde the enemy.

Question: What about your relations with Sudan now that some members of the revolution are on Sudanese territory along the borders with Eritrea?

Answer: Sudan is special to us, and the Sudanese people are fraternal people and they are our neighors, but the attitude of the state depends on its policies and interests with its neighbors. When relations with the Sudanese brothers are cool, we avoid problems with them. The situation is now good, and we hope it stays that way.

Question: Sudanese-Ethiopian relations have recently been tense. Could this be exploited in the interest of the Eritrean revolution?

Answer: Naturally such things are in our interest, but they are temporary. What we want is support for the cause and for our right to self-determination.

Question: You have told us about the presence of revolution members on Sudanese territory.

Answer: We have no forces on Sudanese territory. It is a credit to our revolution that we are always on our territory even in the most difficult circumstances. This confirms the continuity of our revolution.

KENYA

Air Force Sergeant Sentenced to Death for Treason

EA271728 Nairobi KNA in English 1550 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Senior Sergeant Pancras Oteyo Okumu of the disbanded Kenya Air Force Nanyuki, was today sentenced to death by a court martial at the Langata barracks, Nairobi, after he was found guilty of treason.

Senior Sergeant Okumu, who was extradicted from Tanzania late last year, was charged with 14 overt acts of treason. He had been charged with imagining, compassing, designing and inventing to overthrow the legally constituted government of Kenya on August 1, 1982. He had denied the charge.

In his submission to the court, prosecutor Major Joseph Mbewa said that Oteyo had made a concerted and spirited drive to recruit persons into the group, which planned and eventually attempted to overthrow the Government of Kenya on the morning of August 1, 1982.

He added that the prosecution had proved that the accused had talked to several people about the coup plan between March and August of the same year.

The court was presided over by five military officers assisted by a judge-advocate, Mr Sydney Peter Gray, while the accused is defended by a Nairobi lawyer, Mr Geoffrey Simiyu.

CAMEROON

Biya Sends Message to PDG on Sekou Toure Death

AB280910 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] World leaders have continued to react with dismay to the death yesterday of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure. President Paul Biya said it was with shock that Cameroonians received the news of the president's death. In a message to the Central Committee of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG], President Biya said the disappearance of this leader of international dimension constitutes a sad loss for the entire African Continent. The head of state described him as a person who incarnated the ideals and force of unity, dignity, disalienation [as heard] and devoted his life to the struggle to liberate the continent.

CHAD

Bongo Adviser Brings Message to Habre 26 March

AB271320 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Relations between Chad and Gabon are (?excellent). President Bongo's special adviser, [name indistinct], arrived this afternoon to say this in person to President Hissein Habre. The Gabonese envoy, who arrived aboard a special plane and who carried a message from the Gabonese president to his Chadian counterpart, boarded the same plane late in the afternoon for Libreville. Earlier, he was received at 1600 for half an hour by the head of state, to whom he delivered the message.

After this audience, President Bongo's envoy made a statement concerning the message. He did not disclose the contents of the message. However, he reaffirmed the strong relations existing between Gabon and Chad. He also affirmed that the message concerned President Hissein Habre's recent message to President Bongo. The message also concerned the strengthening of relations among the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States [words indistinct] and the periodic consultations the members of this community must hold.

Military Leader on 'Realities' of Libyan Occupation

AB271210 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Life is a real hell in the areas illegally occupied by the Libyan slave masters. Chadians there are subjected toslave-like conditions: They are subjected to torture, deportation, forced labor, and famine. This was revealed today by (Salli Sallim) alias (Sallah Salibbi), a Chadian military leader who decided to defect to join the legal forces. Malaoui, before we listen to the text of the eyewitness account of conditions in the areas occupied by the Libyans, could you tell us the main points raised in that account, since you followed the interview given by (Sallah Salibbi)?

Yes. In fact (Salli Sallim) alias (Sallah Sallibi), a political and military leader who had worked under the barbarous and savage Libyan slavery conditions, decided to return to the Chadian national family, bringing with him six other persons. These Libyan occupants are real expansionists who no longer hide their real intentions about our country, he says. [passage indistinct]

Speaking over Radio Chad this afternoon in a sad but firm voice, (Salli Sallim) talked about the realities of life under Libyan occupation. The Chadians living there have been conditioned. They are being humiliated in their own country. They are systematically searched. They must have a pass to go 2 or 3 kilometers outside Faya. Every day they experience kidnappings, torture, deportations, and hunger because the Libyans do not even care to feed them. The food they bring in from their country is meant for the consumption of their soldiers and mercenaries. Libya's policy is to starve the Chadians in order to weaken them so as to control and dominate them easily.

This is because the Libyans did not come to Chad to leave again. Far from that! Colonel (Mustiti), a Libyan officer in Faya, said it. He clearly declared it to the people during a meeting held at the public square. The present occupation of Chad, and particularly of Faya, is final, he stated. The Chadians should not have any illusions. [passage indistinct]

And to prove the truth of this statement, the Libyans have been burning our national flag, the symbol of our country's sovereignty. They have been setting fire to the national emblem to show that we are no longer owners of that part of our territory. Another example of Libya's intention to annex the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region is its abolition of the French language and introduction of Arabic in the schools. The Libyans are teaching their country's history; they are teaching children to praise Al-Qadhdhafi and to glorify Libya and the Libyan people.

All this is being done under the threat of arms of all calibers, which the Libyan terrorists continue to bring into the region in large numbers.

41 Goukouni Rebels Join Government Forces

JN271616 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 27 Mar (SUNA) — Fourty-one rebels of Goukouni Queddei's forces joined the Chadian Government forces in the past 2 days after they escaped from the occupied territories in the north.

Five officers of this force have arrived in Ndjamena. The commander of the group, an officer in charge of [word indistinct] Queddei's forces, said after his arrival in Ndjamena that they had abandoned Goukouni for the colonialist spirit through which the Libyan invasion forces are treating the Chadian citizens in the occupied lands in the north. He also said that the Libyans prevent the Chadian soldiers from carrying arms in Faya Largeau and search anybody who leaves the city, including the soldiers.

GABON

Bongo Reshuffles Cabinet Retaining Mebiame

AB281255 Paris AFP in French 1215 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Libreville, 28 Mar (AFP) — Gabonese President Omar Bongo on Tuesday made a cabinet reshuffle in which Leon Mebiame remains the prime minister, it is learned from official sources.

The new team is made up of 55 members rather than the former government's 50, and it is marked by the departure of Jean-Baptiste Ngomo Obiang (youth and sports), and Athanase Nzamba (secretary of state to the first vice premier).

The key posts remain unchanged: Martin Bongo; minister of foreign affairs; Julien Mpouho Epilat, minister of national defense, and Jean-Pierre Lembouma-Lepandou, minister of economy and finance.

Seven personalities including a woman have entered the government. Some of them have already occupied ministerial posts in the past. They are Paul Malekou (minister of state in charge of state control), Valentin Mhindou-Mizamba (minister of human resources), Bonjean Francois Ondo (minister in charge of relations with the assemblies), and Michel Essonghe, former permanent undersecretary to President Bongo who now becomes minister personal adviser to the head of state in charge of civil and commercial aviation.

The creation of three ministerial departments — human resources, state control, and relations with the assemblies — give the impression of new government priorities, observers in Libreville feel.

Also, the Army sees its presence in the government strengthened by the appointment of General Ba Oumar to the Ministry of Defense. He, however, retains his post of commander in chief of the Gabonese Armed Forces and military governor of Libreville.

Finally, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is henceforth divided into two separate departments, and a Ministry of State for Commerce and Consumption entrusted to Jean-Francois Ntoutoume Emane, formerly personal adviser to President Bongo in charge of civil aviation, and a Ministry of Industry and State Corporations, which is headed by Etienne Moussirou, have been created.

ZAIRE

2 Explosions Damage Kinshasa Radio, Postal Buildings

LD281328 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] I have just learned that two explosions took place early yesterday afternoon in Kinshasa in the buildings of the Voice of Zaire, the Zairian radio and television, and of the Post and Telecommunications Office, causing some casualties. This information has been learned from informed sources in Paris.

According to these sources, which do not specify the seriousness or the number of the casualties, the damage caused to the two buildings is reported to be quite extensive. Observers recall that on 11 January booby-trapped suitcases which had been unloaded from a plane of the Soviet airline Aeroflot exploded at Kinshasa Airport, destroying part of the customs building as well as all the luggage that was stored there.

Two Dead, Several Wounded

AB281425 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Kinshasa, March 28 (AFP) — Bomb explosions in Zaire's radio and television building and the postal services and telecommunications office killed two people here yesterday.

The bombs, which went off with several hours interval between them, also left several people slightly wounded, but damage to the buildings was minor.

The explosions took place after regular office hours, minimizing the casualties, observers noted.

On January 11, bombs in suitcases arriving aboard a Soviet Aeroflot jetliner from Lagos blew up in Kinshasa airport, damaging the cumstoms office and baggage stored there.

GHANA

Rawlings Pays Brief Visit to Sankara 24 March

AB281403 Paris AFP in French 1219 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Niamey, 28 Mar (AFP) — Ghanaian head of state Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings paid a brief visit to Ouagadougou in between last Saturday night and Sunday morning and held a 2-hourtalk with his Upper Voltan counterpart, Captain Thomas Sankara, it was learned from a reliable source. This visit, observers note, came 24 hours after the attempt on Friday in Accra to free the men sentenced for their part in the abortive coup of June 1983 against the regime of Flight-Lt Rawlings.

It is recalled that Upper Voltan authorities denounced this attempt on Tuesday and said it was part of an "imperialist plot" to liquidate simultaneously the Upper Voltan and Ghanaian revolutions.

The attempt in Accra, they insisted, was to be preceded 2 days earlier by the landing of mercenaries in Upper Volta on 25 March [as received]. According to them, the landing itself was prepared, by the 2-day strike embarked upon by the National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta (SNEAHV). This trade union, for its part, said it was protesting the arrest on 9 March of three members of its national bureau who were accused of "subversive maneuvers," with the complicity of Upper Voltan politicians in exile and "foreign, French, Belgian, and Israeli groups."

1984 Budget To Raise Minimum Wage, Lower Taxes

AB272118 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The government has decided to raise the minimum daily wage from 25 to 40 cedis with effect from the first of next month. This was announced by the secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, when he presented the 1984 budget at a news conference in Accra today. Dr Botchway announced that low income earners will henceforth enjoy special tax relief of 0.7 percent instead of 22.4 percent determining their real wage.

The secretary further said the government has also decided to increase its subsidies for (?students) in secondary schools and other institutions. The government subsidy per student will be 10 cedis per day in the secondary schools. The full details of the budget statement are still coming in.

Western Media at 'Wicked Best' on 23 March Events

AB271743 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Western media are at their wicked best again in the reporting of recent events in Ghana. For example, *THE TIMES OF LONDON*, quoting a REUTER NEWS AGENCY report from Abidjan on the situation, was captioned: Eleven Die in Abortive Coup in Ghana. A correspondent for another Western news medium begins his dispatch with the words: Four Soldiers Executed by Firing Squad in Ghana. The falsity of these reports lies in the fact that in the first place, last weekend's events were not an abortive coup. No part of the official statements on the incidents, even remotely, suggested this. The statements referred to engagements between loyal troops and groups of the dissidents on Ivorian border and at Prampram Beach following their attempts to infiltrate to cause damage to personnel and installations.

This clearly suggests that the groups of dissidents had been ecountered before they could reach their targets. And to write simply that eleven die in abortive coup, is a deliberate falsification because the Ghana Government statement did explain that three of the dead had been executed in accordance with the death sentence passed on them last year for their involvement in attempts to overthrow the government between November 1982 and June 19 last year.

The reporting of the incidents in Ghana have betrayed these media's desire to see the quick destabilization of the Ghanaian revolution. It is as if they are impatient to see their predictions of the collapse of the revolution come true. The Western media seem to have a vested interest in ensuring that there is tension in Ghana. So even when there is none they build up the smallest incidents and inflate them to give the impression that the situation is more tense than it really is. In a situation where fugitives were probably disguised in military uniforms, the search for them would be made easier if there were as few troops on the move as possible. So the force commander ordered that troops be confined to barracks except where their movement is authorized by him. But the BBC gives air space to corrupt Ghanaian exiles pretending to be defenders of democracy to use that medium to say that the troops were being confined because the situation was very bad.

The way the Western media report events in Ghana cannot be explained simply as an example of sensational journalism. The fact is that they reserve this kind of statement to Ghana and the few countries they do not like. There are corrupt dictatorships surrounding Ghana with one-party systems which the Western press condemns in other countries. There is tension in these countries as the progressive students and workers seek to overthrow the bourgeois cliques that feed fat on their sweat. But the Western press pretends not to see this. Of course, the difference is that in these other countries, the ruling elites allow the West to repatriate their huge profits unimpeded while they work day and night to keep down a restive people.

In Ghana and a number of countries that have seen the light, attempts are being made to attain self-reliance so that our resources would begin to be used to benefit the people; and this would mean less recourse to foreign lands begging for food aid. It would also mean less transfer of our resources to benefit others. That is why the Western press, acting in the interest of their capitalist owners, would never leave Ghana alone to prosper in conditions of peace. That is why there must be stories of coups, real or imaginary, to disturb the political calm in the country. In the end what is needed is quick work on the setting up of a new world information order so that Third World events can be

reported to the peoples of those areas by Third World news agencies instead of their having to depend on European or American media for reports on events touching on their lives.

GUINEA

Beavogui Entrusted With Execution of State Affairs

AB272054 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 27 Mar 84

["Third [as heard] Statement From the National Political Bureau"]

[Text] The National Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Guinea and members of government met today, Tuesday, 27 March 1984, from 1330 to 1400 at the hall of the Government Council Building.

During the session, the national leadership of the Guinean state party, having noted the vacancy of the presidency, has decided to entrust the execution of the affairs of the state to Comrade El-Hadj Lansana Beavogui, the prime minister, in conformity with the Constitution of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. Consequently, Comrade El-Hadj Lansana Beavogui upon the publication of this communique is prime minsiter and the head of the government.

Ready for production, the goal of the revolution and the requirement of the National Political Bureau!

Likely To Succeed Sekou Toure

LD272116 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] It is reported from Conakry that Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui will be acting president following the death in a U.S. hospital last night of President Sekou Toure. There is every chance that Beavogui will be designated president of the republic.

Sekou Toure's Body To Arrive in Conakry 28 March

AB272310 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Statement issued by the National Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Guinea]

[Excerpts] The national political bureau of the Democratic Party of Guinea informs the heroic people of Guinea that the body of the great deceased, the immortal fighter of just causes, the valiant and glorious son of Africa in progress, our great comrade, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, will arrive on Wednesday,28 March 1984, at 1000 at Conakry where the revolutionary people of Guinea, his people whom he loved so deeply and whom he faithfully served, will give him a welcome and ceremony befitting their most illustrious and worthiest son.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Ousted Prime Minister Leaves Portuguse Embassy

AB271710 Paris AFP in French 0757 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, 27 Mar (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau's former prime minister, Victor Saude Maria, on Monday evening voluntarily left the Portuguese Embassy in Bissau where he took refuge on March 15, the Portuguese news agency ANOP announced in a report from Bissau.

According to ANOP, quoting Portuguese diplomatic sources in Bissau, Saude Maria decided to return to his residence in the capital after an agreement was reached between the Portuguese and Guinea-Bissau authorities. The agency did not give any details about this agreement.

The former prime minister was deposed on 10 March by President Joao Bernardo Vieira on the ground he planned a coup d'etat.

He was also dismissed from his functions of deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council and the National Security Council.

Placed under house arrest, he succeeded in taking refuge a few days later in the Portuguese Embassy in Bissau.

His wife, Maria Augusta, who was accused of taking part in the same conspiracy, was arrested at the same time but was set free 3 days later.

PAIGC Communique Issued on Sekou Toure Death

AB280902 Paris AFP in French 1718 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, 27 Mar (AFP) — The Political Bureau of the PAIGC, the ruling party in Guinea-Bissau, has decreed a week of national mourning following the death of President Sekou Toure of Guinea-Conakry, according to a communique issued at the end of an extraordinary session chaired by the Guinea-Bissau head of state, General Joao Bernardo Vieira.

It was stated in the communique that "the death of President Sekou Toure constitutes a great loss for Africa, the people of the Third World and of the progressive world," as he was considered "a prestigious son of the African Continent, a fighter for the just causes and freedom of oppressed peoples who was liked and had the esteem of progressive people the world over."

The communique recalled the "great contribution made by President Sekou Toure and the Democratic Party of Guinea to the cause of the liberation of Guinea-Bissau from the colonial yoke of the Portuguese."

A march will be held on Tuesday afternoon in honor of the head of state of Guinea-Conakry.

IVORY COAST

'Great Pain' Over Death of Guinea's Sekou Toure

AB271446 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The news of the sudden death of the president of the Republic of Guinea was received with great pain throughout the country. A journalist of Radio Conakry, whom we have been able to contact, now talks about the atmosphere currently prevailing in Guinea and particularly in the capital:

[Begin recording] In Conakry, all the people are out in the streets. Women, young people, and very little children are weeping bitterly. People have gathered in small groups in front of the public buildings. Those who, like me, were still sleeping at 0600 GMT this morning were awakened by wailing and sobbing. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe To Sign Guinean Embassy Condolence Book

AB271702 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Liberian Foreign Ministry has announced that senior members of the People's Redemption Council and members of the cabinet are to assemble at the Executive Mansion at about now to accompany the head of state Commander in Chief Samuel Doe to the Guinean Embassy to sign the book of condolence.

Protocol on Medical Cooperation Signed With PRC

AB241244 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The governments of Liberia and the PRC have signed a protocol on medical and health cooperation. Signing for the Liberian Government in Monrovia yesterday was Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman, while the Chinese ambassador to Liberia, Liu Pu, signed for his government. Under the protocol, a 14-man Chinese medical team will arrive in Monrovia in May to work at the government hospital in (Takmon) in Bomi County.

NIGER

4 Days of National Mourning for Toure Announced

AB280900 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] To pay tribute to the memory of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, 4 days of national mourning beginning Tuesday, 27 March 1984, through Friday, 30 March 1984, will be observed throughout the territory of the Republic of Niger. Flags will be flown at half-mast over all government buildings. Brigadier Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, will lead the Niger delegation to the funeral of the illustrious deceased leader.

NIGERIA

State Council Honors Memory of Sekou Toure

AB271937 Lagos NAN in English 1628 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 27. (NAN) — The National Council of State today in Lagos observed a minute silence in memory of the late Guinean leader, President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

The observation was at the insistance of the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, who announced the death of President Sekou Toure, shortly before the commencement of the council meeting.

President Sekou Toure died in the U.S. yesterday as a result of a heart problem. Late President Toure was one of the African leaders that had visited Nigeria since the change of government.

Meanwhile, the council meeting has begun behind closed doors. The council is discussing this year's budget of the state governments and the progress report of the states.

Economic Cooperation With France To Continue

AB232217 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria and France have restated their willingness to continue cooperation in economic and technical fields for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The pledge was made at a meeting between the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, and the French ambassador to Nigeria, Michel Drumetz. Chief Adigun expressed satisfaction with the ongoing economic joint ventures in Nigeria and called for French participation in the areas of agriculture and small scale industries.

Replying, Mr Drumetz said his country had confidence in Nigeria's potentialities and capability to develop. The two officials agreed to convene a meeting of a joint commission to explore further areas of cooperation between Nigeria and France.

Niger's Kountche To Visit Lagos 31 March

AB271934 Lagos NAN in English 1615 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 27 (NAN) — President Seyni Kountche of the Republic of Niger is expected in Lagos on Saturday for an official visit, according to State House programme released in Lagos today.

The Niger leader will be met on arrival at Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja, by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

During the 1-day visit, Maj Gen Buhari and the Niger leader will hold bilateral talks. President Kountche and his entourage will leave Lagos for home later in the day.

Idiagbon Cautions Press on Writings of Ex-Politicos

AB270931 Paris AFP in English 0733 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 27 (AFP) — Nigerian papers have been asked to stop printing material financed by politicians who escaped abroad at the time of the army coup here at the end of December.

The call came from the new regime's number two, General Tunde Idiagbon. He said in an interview in the government paper *NEW NIGERIAN* on Monday that continued publication of the inserts could be actionable.

He had earlier asked local journalists not to report interviews given by the "fugitives" to the foreign press.

The Federal Military Government has accused the exiled politicos of planning a mercenary invasion of Nigeria. The local press, in addition to reporting those charges, has also printed denials by several of the politicians in exile in Britain and the United States, who said they had no intention of destabilising the military regime.

Gen Idiagbon commented that the government had no fear of the exile's threats, and expected their offensive to die down soon because their funds were running out.

Gen Idiagbon also told the *NEW NIGERIAN* that there was no intention of revoking the pardon granted in 1982 to Biafran secessionist leader Emeka Ojukwu. He said Mr Ojukwu's continued detention since the coup related to his political activities since his return from 13 years of exile in the Ivory Coast.

Mr Ojukwu became active in the National Party of Nigeria headed (?by ousted civilian) President Shehu Shagari, a [words indistinct] front", a kind of personal militia in his home region. He stood unsuccessfully for the party in a senate seat in last year's pre-coup elections.

The military has banned all the country's political parties, and is still holding many of their leading figures without trial.

Buhari Says Weak Economy Precludes Salary Hike

AB262215 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Mohammadu Buhari, has said that it is unrealistic to demand a salary increase for workers because the nation's economy is too weak to sustain such an expenditure. Addressing a 12-man delegation of the Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC] at Dodan Barracks today, Gen Buhari promised that by the end of the week a detailed account of the country's finance will be published so that all Nigerians would be aware of the extent to which the politicians ruined the economy. He explained that the various governments in the country could no longer sustain free education and health services, and therefore Nigerians should see nothing wrong in paying for such services.

On the IMF loan, the head of state said that Nigeria needed the money to purchase raw materials for local industries and to honor the commitments of the past regime. He, however, emphasized that the loan would only be accepted if the conditions were (?favorable). Gen Buhari urged the NLC to always examine the nation's problems objectively with a view to finding solutions to them.

Earlier, the president of the NLC, Alhaji Ali Ciroma, had frowned on the retrenchment of workers by some state governments and the reintroduction of fees in schools and hospitals. He noted that workers' salaries had become unrealistic in view of the reduction in the purchasing power of the naira. Alhaji Ali Ciroma also stressed the disadvantages of the IMF loan which he said included the possible devaluation of the naira and subsequent demand for salary increase. He pledged the cooperation of the NLC with the military administration and said that the congress would not do anything that would work against the interest of the government and the people of Nigeria.

Buhari Urges Educators To Provide Leadership

AB232050 Lagos NAN in English 1635 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar. 23 [NAN] — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos urged vice chancellors of Nigerian universities to use their experiences to provide the much-needed leadership in finding solution to the problems of the society.

Addressing the committee of vice chancellors at Dodan Barracks, Maj Gen Buhari said, "this administration expects you to take every necessary step to ensure that peace and orderliness reigned in the campuses." He said "efforts should be made to understand societal problems in their true perspectives and to interpret them correctly to promote the right understanding among staff and students." The university system, he said, must identify itself with national efforts by adopting correct methods in tackling "peculiar problems."

Maj Gen Buhari said that this would discourage the development of antisocial ideas and attitudes which currently manifest themselves in "unnecessary riots and acts of vandalism on the campuses."

On education and current problems in the universities, Maj Gen Buhari said [passage indistinct] police educational policy. He said that with recent meetings held on education at various quarters, a new comprehensive national policy on education would soon emerge. He said that the Federal Military Government had for the meantime, banned all private universities and the establishment of new ones pending new conditions to be announced soon.

The Head of state urged the vice chancellors to consider the present financial position of the country when planning and executing their programmes and to ensure prudence and accountability in managing their resources. He commended the vice chancellors on the measures they had taken to create new sources of revenue, adding that this would compliment government's efforts to improve their financial status.

On discipline, Maj Gen Buhari expressed the hope that the vice

chancellors would continue to display that "rare quality of the trained mind and leadership for which university teachers, the world over, have come to be known."

The chairman of the committee, prof Adamu Baike, expressed the committed support for the government's stand on accountability and prudence. He said that the vice chancellors were satisfied with the government's decision to patronise the consultancy services unit of the various universities and gave the assurance that the government would not regret doing so. The chairman pleaded that the membership of the Council of Universities should be made up of people of unquestionable integrity for proper management of the affairs of the universities.

Striking Airline Pilots Dismissed From Service

Pilots Fail To Report

AB232219 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] International and domestic flights of the Nigeria Airways were disrupted today following the failure of some pilots to report for duty. A statement by the public affairs manager of the airline, Feni Ogunleye, says that the management is yet to be told the reasons for the pilots' action.

However, in his reaction, the president of the Airlines Pilots and Flight Engineers Association of Nigeria, Augustino Colo, said the members had embarked on a strike following certain decisions recently taken by the airlines management. According to him, the management has renewed the wet-lease contract for four Boeing-747 aircraft contrary to the airline's decision to terminate the agreement.

A Radio Nigeria airport correspondent reported that thousands of passengers were stranded at both the international and domestic terminals of the Murtala Muhammad Airport today.

Reports just coming in say that the airways management has directed all pilots and flight engineers rostered for flight to report and operate their flights tomorrow morning. After a closed-door meeting in Lagos, the management advises the rest to report to the director of flight operations in the morning. The airline management said that any of the affected staff who failed to heed this directive would be regarded as having abandoned his job.

Call To Return Ignored

AB241335 Lagos NAN in English 1312 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar 24 (NAN) — Pilots and flight engineers of the Nigeria Airways on strike failed to report for duties this morning as directed by the management of the airline.

The management after an emergency closed-door meeting last night warned that any of the pilots or flight engineers who failed to report for duties today would have himself to blame.

No pilot or flight engineer had reported for duty up till 10.00 a.m. and there were no flights on the local and international routes. All the airlines' planes, except the four wet-leased Boeing 747's, remained grounded.

In a statement, the management said that the pilots' association neither declared any trade dispute with it, nor gave it any previous warning regarding their strike as laid down in the country's labour laws. The management recalled that the association had, in a letter dated March 22, intimated [as received] it of a proposed emergency meeting of the association scheduled for Saturday, but that while the letter was being delivered yesterday morning, the pilots and flight engineers had already embarked on the strike.

Meanwhile, the minister of transport and aviation, Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, has agreed to meet members of the association on Monday.

As a result of the strike, many stranded passengers on the local routes have been making alternative arrangements with some private airlines for their flights.

The managing director of the Nigeria Airways, Group Capt Bernard Banfa, has been meeting with the directors of the airline, to decide on the next line of action to be taken.

Dismissal Order Given

AB250920 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] All striking Nigeria Airways pilots and flight engineers who have abandonned their duties since the last 48 hours have been dismissed from the services of the airline. Also affected are members of the cabin crew and flight engineers who took part in the industrial action. The management of the airline gave this order in Lagos after many hours of deliberations on the current action by the affected officers. At the end of the 12-hour meeting, it was agreed that the continued refusal by the officers to return to work amounts to refusal to work. The management, however, decided to reabsorb the dismissed staff if they reapplied for their jobs. Applications for such a reemployment, the management said, should reach the director of personnel not later than tomorrow.

Government Supports Airline Decision

AB262155 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] has guaranteed the protection of any pilot or technical staff of the Nigeria Airways who is ready to serve the airline. The managing director of the airline, Group Captain Bampa, told a management meeting tonight that the Federal Government was in full support of the airline's decision to (?get rid of) disobedient pilots and engineers. He assured both pilots and engineers ready to work for the airline not to yield to intimidation from any quarters, but to come forward and reapply for employment as directed. The management stressed that it had given the dismissed pilots up to 1000 on Wednesday to vacate all government quarters and submit all the company's property in their possession.

In an interview with a Radio Nigeria correspondent, the president of the Airlines Pilots and Flight Engineers Association of Nigeria, APFEA, Captain Augustine Oko, said the pilots and flight engineers have voluntarily vacated their quarters. He said the issue would remain unresolved until the FMG took a critical look at the situation in the Nigeria Airways.

Decision To Fire 'Final'
AB271258 Lagos NAN in English 1245 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Ikeja, March 27 (NAN) — The managing director of the Nigeria Airways, Group Capt. Benard Banfa, said in Lagos yesterday that the decision of the management to terminate the appointments of the pilots and flight engineers of the airline on strike was final. He told news men in his office that they had failed to explore all the available channels for negotiations before going on the strike. The management, he said, sent letters terminating the appointments of the pilots and the flight engineers yesterday.

Group. Capt. Banfa said that when he first heard of the strike, that he summoned the pilots and flight engineers to a meeting, but they failed to turn up.

The general secretary of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Malam Aliyu Dangiwa, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the officials on strike were "provoked to react in a manner which the airline management did not like". He said that the reason given for their dismissal was a "well-known management gimmick which the NLC would not consider seriously".

According to Malam Aliyu, the NLC was aware of the efforts made by the association to resolve the matter with the airline, but that the management had not responded.

Malam Aliyu also told NAN that a 10-point demand by the pilots and engineers to the management was yet to be responded to, adding that the NLC was aware that the airline's management had "no hand in the insurance of the pilots despite the risks involved in their functions".

Malam Aliyu called on the airline's management to rescind the sack order and enter into a meaningful dialogue with the aggrieved officials.

914 People Still in Jail After Yola Riots
AB271931 Paris AFP in English 0728 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 27 (AFP) — A total of 914 people are still in jail in eastern Nigeria's Gongola State after being arrested after clashes at Yola between Muslim fanatics and police at the beginning of the month, the state's Police Minister Nuhu Aliyu reported Monday.

He said 259 people detained had been released after questioning. Of the 914 still held, 41 were foreigners from Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Sudan.

The clashes at Jimeta, the commercial district of Yola, left 721 people dead, according to official figures. Other sources have spoken of more than 1,000 deaths.

Police surveillance of relgious sects has been considerably strengthened in major cities of northern Nigeria.

Loan to States To Pay Salary Arrears Reported
AB280830 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The National Council of State has approved a loan of 600 million naira to the states to enable them to pay arrears of workers' salaries before the end of next month. A communique issued at the end of the council's meeting in Lagos yesterday said that the loans would be recovered from January 1985 in accordance with the schedule to be worked out by the Federal Ministry of Finance. The council directed the federal minister of finance to explain the state of the nation's finances on the 30th of this month. It said the commissioners of finance should do the same for the states.

The council commended the campaign against indiscipline which was recently launched by the Federal Government. It agreed that the program should meaningfully begin with the leadership in various segments of society and be extended to the grassroots including mosques, churches, family units, and schools. The council approved the launching of the campaign by military governors in all the states.

SENEGAL

President Diouf Mourns Sekou Toure's Death
AB271753 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Senegalese cabinet met on Tuesday morning at the Republic Hall under the chairmanship of the head of state. During the meeting, President Abdou Diouf spoke in moving terms of the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure whom he called a personal friend and brother.

The minister of information, the government spokesman, has given a statement by the head of state to the press on the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Here is the contents of the statement:

In his statement to the cabinet, the president of the republic expressed his deep emotion and great sadness at the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

In memory of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the head of state paid glowing tribute to the historical stature and exceptional statesmanly qualities of the one history will remember as a courageous and indomitable fighter and an intransigent defender of the dignity, the independence and the freedom of Africa, and of its people and their just causes.

The president of the republic said in addition that, this noble struggle earned for President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the respect, the admiration and the esteem of the whole of Africa and of all sincere men in the world.

The head of state also underlined the sincere friendship and great and reciprocal esteem that President Ahmed Sekou Toure and the Senegalese people and leaders had for one another.

With Sekou Toure's death, President Abdou Diouf has lost a faithful friend and a fellow soldier whose wisdom and generosity were a source of inspiration.

The president of the republic said that as soon as he was informed of the event, he sent a message of condolences to the bereaved family of the illustrious deceased and to the brotherly people of Guinea on behalf of the Senegalese people and government and on his own behalf.

Expressing the great pain felt by the Senegalese people, the president of the republic decreed 3 days of national mourning during which flags will fly at half-mast all over the country.

The head of state also decided to attend in person the funeral of President Ahmed Sekou Toure at Conakry.

UPPER VOLTA

Two Former Ministers Sentenced to Prison, Fined

AB271744 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Sittings at the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Bobo-Dioulasso ended yesterday with the two major accused persons receiving the following sentences. Lankoande Dzazanu Moise, former minister of justice in the Third Republic, was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment with 5 years reprieve. He is to pay a fine of 75 million CFA francs to the state, and additional fine of 100 million CFA for damages, and reimburse the state 25,348,313.50 CFA.

Meanwhile, Amadou Gani Tamboura, former minister of tourism in the Third Republic, must also serve a prison sentence of 7 years with 5 years reprieve. He must also pay a fine of 50 million CFA, another of 100 million CFA for damages, and reimburse the state 5,395,605 CFA.

Lessons of Ghanaian 'Reactionaries' Attempt Viewed

AB271645 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Imperialists and Ghanaian reactionaries attempted over the weekend to overthrow the revolutionary government of Accra, but they failed miserably. Ouattamou Lamien explains the lessons here of such a plot:

As long as the revolutionary process moves ahead and as long as imperialism and reaction exist, there will always be counterrevolutionary plots. The people and the revolutionaries must therefore be vigilant and avoid being taken by surprise in their sleep, even if they need to sleep.

What has just happened in Ghana shows that more than 2 years after the coming into power of the Ghanaian patriots and revolutionaries, the reactionaries and other allies — imperialism — have not stopped their activities. Last June they attempted and failed, and last weekend they attacked again by organizing demonstrators to attempt to release the 19 June insurgents who are in prison.

Harassment tactics are well known and are used occasionally by accused persons or persons who deeply hate the revolutionary government. All these people will involve themselves in a battle that is lost before it begins, while those pulling the strings are protected somewhere. These enemies of the revolution, who occasionally organize counterrevolutionary actions, aim at exacerbating the fear of the precariousness of revolutionary regimes.

A shady group attempted over the weekend to use this false argument against the democratic government of Ghana.

Counterrevolutionaries do not give up once there are people to rouse both within and outside the country. Mercenary attacks are common to all revolutions because of money given by imperialism and its internal allies in every country. They are unable to get used to the idea that the people who take over power are also determined to fight to maintain the control of this state machinery which enables them to make radical changes to meet, their aspirations.

Revolutionary power is not in the hands of a group of individuals. The enemies of the revolution and the people who are too used to this clannish vision of power are unable to understand this. But the leaders will always be smart enough to stay far away and avoid the just sanctions of the people's power.

This is a lesson we must learn from the plots and intrigues cooked up by reaction. The revolution is not used to looking for what it lost under the nearest lampost but exactly where it lost it. In other words, the revolution that knows who the tacticians pulling the strings are will assume its responsibilities at the right time.

ANGOLA

UNITA: Sumbe Operation May Kick Off New Offensive

AB271528 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, March 27 (AFP) — The capture of Sumbe (formerly Novo Redondo), the capital of Kwanza Sul Province on the Atlantic coast, last Sunday by guerrillas of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) could mark the start of a rebel offensive, a UNITA statement said here today.

Sumbe, 300 kms (200 miles) south of the capital Luanda, fell to some 5,000 rebels on Sunday after six hours of battle, UNITA said. During the operation, about 500 Angolan regulars, 62 Cubans, seven Soviets, 12 Bulgarians and five Italian technicians were killed, UNITA said.

The South African-backed UNITA forces led by Jonas Savimbi also captured 65 Angolan soldiers, including a captain, 10 Portuguese technicians and four Bulgarian technicians, one of whom was identified as Emanuel Milanofu Konstantin, UNITA said.

(Authorities in Luanda said that UNITA forces attacked one district of Sumbe, according to a dispatch by ANGOP, the Angolan news agency. ANGOP confirmed the UNITA claim that rebels had captured foreigners, but gave no numbers for hostages or the government's losses.)

UNITA warned the United Nations, the Western contact group seeking a negotiated settlement to the Namibian conflict, the black frontline states and South Africa that the attack on the town "could be the prelude to a wave of violence in Angola." The estimated 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola would never leave unless the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) Party agrees to hold direct peace negotiations with UNITA on the formation of a Government of National Union, UNITA said.

UNITA has been fighting the Luanda government, now headed by President Eduardo dos Santos, since independence from Portugal in 1975 and reportedly controls vast areas of the country in the south and east.

Earlier this month, President dos Santos went to Cuba for talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro, and the two leaders issued a statement that Cuban troops will remain in Angola until South African forces leave Namibia.

UNITA said that government forces intervened during the Sumbe fighting with MIG fighters and MI-25 helicopters. Two of the helicopters were shot down, it said. UNITA said its own casualties amounted to 42 dead, 103 wounded and seven missing. (ANGOP said the rebels killed eight civilians and wounded 40 more, while suffering 30 killed and many wounded.)

UNITA said its Central Committee will issue a statement concerning the latest developments in southern Africa on April 2.

Government Reports UNITA Routed

AB271840 Dakar PANA in French 1815 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 27 Mar (ANGOP/PANA) — Eight persons were killed and 40 others wounded during an attack last Sunday by a group of bandits against a suburb of the town of Sumbe (chief town of the province of Kwanza Sul), center-west of the country, it was learned from official sources in Angola. According to these sources, the main objective of this attack consisted mainly in destroying strategic economic targets in the town and infiltrating groups specialized in killing, stealing, and kidnapping of foreigners.

The Angolan Armed Forces immediately riposted on the same day with a large-scale operation during which they killed 30 puppets and captured 12 others. In their flight, the puppets left behind them several dead bodies and wounded persons, as well as a large quantity of Western- and South African-manufactured arms and military equipment, mostly 82- and 60-caliber mortars, three 82-caliber mortar shells; 12 RPG-7 shells; and a large quantity of ammunition and chargers.

UNITA Forces Elsewhere 'Annihilated'

MB271953 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Angolan National Army continues to deal heavy blows to UNITA criminals who intend to carry out the social and economic destabilization of Angola.

According to a report of the Ministry of Defense issued this morning, the Angolan fighters the day before yesterday launched a vast offensive operation in the region of Sautar in Malanje, where they annihilated a number of counterrevolutionaries and captured large quantities of war equipment. The captured equipment include 86 AK weapons, 163 magazines, and 25,300 rounds of ammunition for AK weapons, 74,000 rounds of ammunition for G-3's, 9 RPG-7's, 7 60-mm mortars, 318 rockets for 81-mm mortars, 1,325 hand grenades, 295 rockets for RPG-7's, 87 projectiles for 60-mm mortars, 2,600 meters of detonating cable, 972 rounds of (ZG-1) ammunition, and 715 electrical detonators.

Our forces also captured 125 detonators, 270 TNT blocks, 2,526 81-mm mortar detonators, 44 weapon cleaning kits, 312 RPG-7 rockets, 43 G-3 belts, 9 rubber hammers, 1 Claymore mine, and 9 kg of dynamite. We shall give more information on this further action of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola against the UNITA puppet group, which in the service of imperialism seeks (?to achieve) the social and economic destabilization of our country.

In Cuanza Sul, the (?pursuit operations) continue against the group of criminals who had attempted to infiltrate one of the surrounding wards of Sumbe town.

Until yesterday, the Angolan fighters had killed 30 enemy personnel and captured (?12) puppets and seized a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and various types of military equipment.

FAPLA Victories in Huambo, Moxico

AB271805 Dakar PANA in French 1728 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 27 Mar (ANGOP/PANA) — Hundreds of bandits killed, hideouts destroyed, several persons freed and a large quantity of ammunitions captured — this is the outcome of recent operations conducted by soldiers of FAPLA against puppet elements in various parts of the Angolan territory.

According to an official communique, men of the Angolan Armed Forces have lately intensified their military action in the Provinces of Huambo and Moxico (south and southeast of the country, respectively), where the puppet groups indulge in acts of sabotage, kidnapping and murdering of the civilians.

In the Province of Huambo, more precisely 11 km from the township of Londuimbale, a puppet hideout was destroyed by the FAPLA who, at the same time, captured one puppet element and freed dozens of people detained by the bandits. Still in the same province, at 16 km from the township of Vila Nova, two bandits were killed, 23 persons freed, and several bandit hideouts destroyed during an operation conducted by the Angolan soldiers against the puppet group.

At Luena, the chief town of the Province of Moxico, Angolan soldiers arrested 45 persons suspected to be belonging to the puppet group. Meanwhile, the Angolan forces had captured various cases of ammunition and arms during a military operation in the same town, the communique concludes.

SWAPO's Toivo Arrives in Luanda From Libreville

MB271418 Luanda ANGOP in French 1120 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 27 Mar (ANGOP) — Herman Toivo ja Toivo, a SWAPO founding member who has recently been released after spending 16 years in the South African jails, arrived Friday in Luanda in the company of Sam Nujoma, SWAPO's president, from Libreville, Gabon.

Since it was the first time that the Namibian leader has visited Angola, he expressed hope for a speedy independence for Namibia based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

During his stay in Angola, Toivo ja Toivo will meet members of the MPLA-Labor Party and members of the Angolan Government.

The founding member of SWAPO is touring several African countries, namely the frontline states, after receiving special permission from South African authorities in Namibia to leave the country for a period of 30 days.

President dos Santos Receives Sao Tome Ambassador

MB271706 Luanda ANGOP in French 1140 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 26 Mar (ANGOP) — Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received in Luanda last Saturday Ariosto Castelo David, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Sao Tome and Principe to Angola, who delivered a verbal message from Manuel Pinto da Costa, the president of Sao Tome and Principe.

Party Delegation Departs for Czechoslovakia

MB271917 Luanda ANGOP in French 0915 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 27 Mar (ANGOP) — A delegation of the [words indistinct] for defense and security of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee left Luanda yesterday led by Major Antonio dos Santos Neto Patonio en route to Prague for a working visit which will last several days.

This visit comes within the framework of the agreements signed between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party and will allow both parties to exchange and gain experience in order to strengthen the links of friendship and fraternity existing between the two countries.

UNITA Communique Reports Victories 28 Feb-5 Mar

MB262043 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Communique issued by Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, UNITA chief of General Staff, at the UNITA central base in Angola on 5 Mar]

[Text] When the MPLA-Labor Party announces to the four winds that it is winning the war against UNITA, it regards those claims as true. The attack on Kafunfo mines is the beginning of a combined action between urban and rural guerrilla warfare which will certainly end with fighting in the streets of Luanda. Experts on guerrilla war strategy should more attentively discuss the civil war taking place in Angola, as it will change the concept that only guerrilla wars supported by the Soviet Union succeed. There are two elements about which the MPLA-Labor Party and its direct and indirect allies can do absolutely nothing: They are the peasants' broad support of UNITA, and the correct conduct of the guerrilla war, which has already succeeded in setting up solid support bases inside Angola.

The commando tactics inspired by Portuguese mercenary instructors can no longer change the war situation, because they have come too late and the units of the MPLA-Labor Party, which are used to Soviet and Cuban tactics, cannot use helicopters en masse to take advantage of any situation which could favor them. Let us now have a look at what has happened in the country over a period of 7 days.

In Cuanza Sul Province on 28 February, our forces attacked the enemy post at Cainja, 13 km from Vila Nova de Seles, killing six members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and eight members of the People's Defense Organization. They destroyed 4 trucks and captured 19 weapons, including 10 AK's, as well as 19 Russian mausers and an armed FAPLA member.

In Malanje Province on 26 February, our forces attacked a military column which was escorting diamond company trucks heading for Cuanza Norte in the Samulemba area. In the attack, 10 enemy agents were killed and 6 Volvo, Mercedes, and (Ifa) trucks were destroyed. Large quantities of war equipment and diamonds were captured. On 29 February, our forces attacked a FAPLA column at a place 20 km from Malanje, while it was traveling to Kafunfo, killing 11 enemy agents and wounding many more, and burning 7 Star, GAZ-66, and Ural trucks.

In Luanda Province on 5 March, our forces captured the Mona Quimbundo township between Saurimo and Cacolo, killing 8 FAPLA soldiers, capturing 11 AKM's, and destroying 2 Star trucks. On 26 February, a truck traveling from Malanje to recapture Kafunfo detonated an antitank mine which burned it to ashes, killing and wounding an unknown number of the enemy.

In Moxico Province on 26 February, two bridges were destroyed on the road between (Novas Chaves) and Teixeira de Sousa after our forces subdued these two garrisons. In the two actions, our forces captured 24 automatic weapons, 2 RPG-7's, various bombs, and rounds of ammunition. The bridges were over the Luxico and (Luvengue) Rivers. On 1 March, our forces repulsed an enemy battalion on the outskirts of Teixeira de Sousa, which is still surrounded. In the attack, our forces killed 19 enemy soldiers and wounded a number of other enemy personnel. They captured 13 AK's, 1 60-mm mortar, and various other types of equipment.

In Bie Province on 28 February, our forces attacked a SWAPO force at Chivinga, 25 kms from Andulo, killing 8 SWAPO members and seizing 14 automatic weapons. They also destroyed two Ural and Mercedes trucks. On 29 February, our forces repulsed an enemy battalion of the 82d Brigade in the area of the Mola River, south of Munhango, killing 33 FAPLA soldiers and causing a disorderly flight of the remaining enemy personnel, capturing 40 AK's, 1 B-10 cannon, 2 RPG-7's, many bombs, and various rounds of ammunition. They also burned one BDR truck. Those killed include Antonio Chizingui, the battalion's chief of staff. Our forces captured 10 FAPLA members of the 82d Brigade, who condemned the activities of the 82d, 19th and 1st Brigades.

On 3 March, the enemy position at Capolo was stormed and captured by UNITA forces, which killed 23 enemy soldiers and destroyed 5 military trucks and 1 BDR. A total of 25 AK, G-3 and PPSh automatic weapons, 2 RPG-7's, 1 60-mm mortar, and a large number of bombs were seized.

In Huambo Province, on 26 February UNITA forces attacked an enemy supply force travelling from Huambo to Bie between Bela Vista and Chinguar at a place 6 km from Chinguar, killing 11 FAPLA members and destroying 3 Volvo trucks with material for the enemy central supply base in Bie. On 29 February an enemy train with registration 16052/5 and a 346 locomotive detonated an explosive device at about 1800. The explosion totally destroyed the engine and derailed the entire train. The action took place between km 433 and 610 [as heard] in the area of Caala. Fixed and rolling stock equipment suffered material damage.

In Benguela Province, on 1 March the enemy military garrison guarding the railroad bridge at km 215, 15 km from Ganda, was annihilated. The bridge was totally destroyed in the attack, thus halting the movement of trains between Membassoco and Chimboa. On 2 March our forces shot down one MI-24 helicopter near Catengue, burning three Cubans and eight FAPLA members beyond recognition.

In Cuando Cubango, on 29 February an enemy supply force was attacked between Menongue and Caiundo, 10 km from Caiundo, resulting in the death of three FAPLA soldiers, the destruction of three trucks and the burning of the goods which they were carrying. A total of 18 AK's, 1 RPG-7, 1 RPD, and various rounds of ammunition were captured. On 2 March our forces stormed and captured the enemy post at (Jamba), 18 km from (Chitembo), killing 22 enemy personnel and capturing 27 arms including AK's, Russian mausers, RPG-7's, 60-mm mortars, and various types of ammunition, and destroying 6 trucks and a BDR. On 5 March the enemy position at (Sobi), 27 km south of Cuito Cuanavale, was stormed and taken by our forces. A total of 37 FAPLA men were killed in the attack and 5 Berliet, GAZ, and Ural trucks, and a BRDM-2 were destroyed. A total of 25 AK's, 3 G-3's, 8 Russian mausers, 2 81-mm mortars, 1 RPG-7, and various rounds of ammunition and bombs were captured. Our forces captured 7 FAPLA soldiers of the 16th Brigade.

In Huila Province, on 28 February an enemy truck transporting FAPLA and Cuban personnel detonated an antitruck mine between Matala and Dongo, killing 3 Cuban and 11 FAPLA personnel and completely destroying the truck.

During this period the enemy lost 216 FAPLA members. A total of 25 FAPLA members were captured. We killed 6 Cubans and 8 SWAPO fighters, shot down a helicopter and destroyed 79 trucks, captured 348 weapons of various types and freed 13,261 members of the public.

On our side 18 of our men were killed, 63 were wounded, and 8 are missing.

The struggle will triumph. United we shall win.

BOTSWANA

President Hails Prince Charles Visit at Dinner

MB271039 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, said last night that it would be careless of him not to mention the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Botswana and the United Kingdom. Dr Masire was speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the heir to the British throne, Prince Charles. The dinner was held at the State House in Gaborone. The president also expressed his government's appreciation for the support that Botswana continues to receive from successive British Governments. He said Botswana is a dry country with inadequate water resources and that the capital, Gaborone, was still experiencing water restrictions.

Dr Masire mentioned that the Commonwealth Development Corporation [CDC], of which Prince Charles is the director, has always been an active participant in the development of Botswana, even before the country attained its independence. He said some of the projects afforded by the CDC include the Botswana Meat Commission Abattoir at Lobatse, medium- and low-cost housing in Gaborone, and the current raising of the wall of the Gaborone dam. The president said Prince Charles' presence in Botswana is both honor to its people and a concrete expression of the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist in the Commonwealth.

In reply, Prince Charles noted that Botswana was going through a serious drought situation and also took into account the fact that the president was trying his best to alleviate the current suffering of the people. He said he simply did not know what he could do to help remedy the perils of drought, as he could not bring shipments of excess water they have in Britain. The prince said that he would like to visit the Okavango at the end of his visit to see species of wildlife and said he was also looking forward to visiting mining and cattle industries during his tour of the country.

Prince Charles arrived in Gaborone yesterday on the last leg of his four-nation tour, which also took him to Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. He is in Botswana as director of the Commonwealth Development Cooperation to inspect projects founded by the CDC. The prince will today visit the Gaborone dam, where he will view the dam from the top of its wall, and proceed to the crushing plant where he will enter the control bob and press buttons for the cement mix. He will also visit Gaborone secondary school, where he will be received by the minister of education, Mr Kebatlamang Morake, among others.

LESOTHO

RSA Border Police Seen Conspiring To Aid Alliance

MB271328 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "Deteriorating Border Situation"]

[Text] There seems to be no letting up on the hardships suffered by Basotho on the South African border posts, especially at Maseru Bridge and Ficksburg Bridge. Reports reaching Maseru confirm that Basotho travelers to South Africa are being subjected to humiliating and undignified treatment. Passports are thrown into their faces — faces of the elderly and young alike — the sick are denied passage to places of healing in South Africa, and workers and traders are returned arbitrarily without regard to the consequences that face them as a result of their failure to report for work or missed trading appointments. People holding valid travel documents who travel to South Africa subject to a legitimate border agreement between South Africa and Lesotho are not treated in accordance with the terms of the agreement, but are victims of the whims of rude South African border police officials, who have no regard for human dignity.

Traveling to destinations across the border has now become a favor to be dispensed as they will by the border police officials. This situation has been compounded by the new political phenomenon in Lesotho. The various factions that have close connections with Pretoria have been allowed by South Africa to capitalize on the deteriorating border situation. After travelers had been returned from the border, they have been referred to Democratic Alliance leaders, such as C.D. Molapo in the case of the Ficksburg Bridge, Charles Mofeli in the case of the Maseru Bridge. All with letters of recommendation from these Pretoria-backed dissidents are people able to be given permission to cross the border. This is done in order to force people to enroll with these dissident organizations and hopefully to force them to vote for them in the forthcoming elections. It is a new development in the politics of Lesotho.

In the past we have known politicians to compete for the favor of the electorate by minimizing the hardships of the people, but today, through the South African-backed alliance, we see politicians seeking the favor of the electorate not only by capitalizing on its hardships, but also by ensuring the hardships are deliberately created, so that C.D. Molapo and his cohorts may find a role to play. This trick was first started by South Africa in order to assist Charles Mofeli. Now it is being continued and extended in order to enhance the political fortunes of C.D. Molapo. It is, however, a fallacy to believe that Basotho can be forced into voting for a political reject simply because he helps to squeeze them into doing so. This is an insult to the intelligence and political astuteness of Basotho.

MADAGASCAR

Information Minister Rakotomavo Receives Cuban Envoy

MB272048 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Bruno Rakotomavo, minister of information and ideological orientation, yesterday afternoon received in audience His Excellency Aldo Pena Enriquez, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Madagascar, who informed him of preparations to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This celebration will be marked, specifically by a week of Cuban films, from 12 or 18 April. A high-ranking Cuban official is also expected to visit Madagascar.

This meeting also discussed the international situation, namely the imperialist aggression against Nicaragua and provocations against Third World countries, particularly in Latin America.

The two officials also discussed their experiences in the field of cooperatives. A Malagasy delegation representing cooperatives will visit Cuba next month.

MOZAMBIQUE

Communique Issued on Death of Sekou Toure

MB280844 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Communique on the death of Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure issued by the Frelimo Party Central Committee, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, and the Council of Ministers in Maputo on 27 March]

[Text] His Excellency Lansana Beavogui, prime minister of the Popular and Revolutionary Republic of Guinea:

It was with great dismay that the Frelimo Party Central Committee, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, the Council of Ministers, and all the Mozambican people learned the painful news of the death of Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure, secretary general of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG], and president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

Ahmed Sekou Toure is a dear son of Africa who has profoundly affected the history of liberation of our continent through his actions and personality. As trade union leader of the then Workers General Union of Black Africa, and as the national leader of the African Democratic Union, Ahmed Sekou Toure stood as one of the pioneers of the new form of African nationalism. It was this concept that in 1958 led to victory in the struggle of the people of Guinea for national independence and against imperialism and neocolonialism. Saying no to the colonialist referendum of 1958 marked this historic turning point of African nationalism.

Ahmed Sekou Toure's independent Guinea stood by itself as a base of support for the struggle of the African peoples for their liberation and unity. In the Casablanca Group and in the moves that led to the creation and founding of the OAU, as well as in the Nonaligned Movement, Ahmed Sekou Toure distinguished himself as one of the most outstanding patriots and leaders of Africa. Guinea became the safe rearguard of the struggle of liberation of the fraternal peoples of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, thus contributing to the overthrow of Portuguese colonialism.

In 1970, the people of Guinea defeated the imperialist mercenary invasion which was aimed at destroying their revolutionary and anti-imperialist regime, which is a vital force in the support for the struggle of the oppressed peoples of our continent. The Mozambican people, as well as the fraternal peoples of the former Portuguese colonies, have always counted on the fraternal support of Sekou Toure's Guinea.

In conveying their condolences to the PDG, and the government and fraternal people of Guinea, the Frelimo Party Central Committee, the People's Assembly Standing Commission, the Council of Ministers, and the Mozambican people state that they share the grief and the sorrow for the loss of Ahmed Sekou Toure, the great son of Africa. At this moment, with particular affection, we are with our dear comrade and sister Andree Toure and the entire mourning family.

At this moment of sorrow we reaffirm our belief that the fraternal people of Guinea, their party, and government will find the energy to continue the historic combat of a patriot and militant who was an example and inspiration for Africa.

The struggle continues.

[Signed] Samora Moises Machel, marshal of the Republic, chairman of the Frelimo Party, and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique in Maputo on 27 March 1984.

Lusophone Countries Commission Postpones Meeting

MB271956 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The meeting of the transport subcommission for cooperation among Mozambique, Angolan, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe, which should have begun in Maputo today, has been postponed until further notice.

The meeting was postponed because the Angolan and Guinea-Bissau delegations have not yet arrived in Maputo. Our reporters have been informed that the Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe delegations are already in Maputo. The purpose of this meeting is to examine cooperation in the field of civil aviation. This sector must implement changes contained in the recommendations of the last summit meeting of the five heads of state, which took place last December in Guinea-Bissau.

Agreement on Seismic Survey Signed With Japan

MB241243 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique and Japan signed in Tokyo yesterday an accord on a seismic survey of the ground to be conducted on the Mozambique coast. According to the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, the accord was signed by Abdul Magid Osman, secretary of state for coal and hydrocarbons, and (Toshinobu Ota), chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation of Japan. According to this source, the survey is expected to be carried out from July to August and will cover the Bazaruto area on the coast of Inhambane Province.

Talks on Japanese participation in oil research in our country began in 1982. At the moment, American and Norwegian firms are involved in a seismic survey of the Mozambique coast covering an area of 2,600 km.

Drought Causes More Than 2,000 Deaths in Tete

MB261331 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] More than 2,000 people have died so far this year as a result of drought in the northwest Mozambique province of Tete, according to figures released by the country's Natural Disasters Commission. The director of the commission, (Amos Manjani), said the whole area between the Zambezi River and the Zimbabwe border was affected and the situation was as serious as the

severe drought that killed tens of thousands in the southern provinces of Gaza and Inhambane last year.

He said conditions were worst around the town of Changara on the road from Tete town to the Zimbabwe border, as the population had been swollen by thousands of refugees fleeing from parts of neighboring Manica Province, infested with South African-backed bandits. Many people are struggling to survive on a diet of baobab leaves and other wild plants, and the authorities fear that some of these plants may be poisonous. Diseases such as marasmus, tuberculosis, and diarrhea are widespread. There is food available in other areas of Tete Province, but shortages of transport and fuel as well as attacks by the armed bandits are making it very difficult to get supplies to the stricken areas. Many people have already crossed into Zimbabwe, taking their livestock with them in the hope of exchanging goats for food.

Mr (Manjani) said international aid was urgently needed to prevent the death toll from rising still further. Referring to the south of the country, he said good rains had fallen in most of the drought-affected areas, but people were still dying in some districts, and it would be a long time before the situation got back to normal. Mr (Manjani) said the problems to be faced included a shortage of seeds, the large number of people who had left their land, and the physical weakness of many peasants, which forced them to work more slowly.

NAMIBIA

U.S., RSA Charged With Sidestepping UN Resolution

MB280725 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] There are signs that South Africa and the Reagan administration are seeking to sidestep some of the key provisions of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council. For example, while talking a lot about the need to maintain the momentum for the peace process in southern Africa, South Africa continues to evade the question of a cease-fire in Namibia. There are also thinly veiled attempts to replace the monitoring and supervisory role of the UN Transitional Assistance Group, UNTAG, with American monitors.

Some U.S. military officers have already arrived in Windhoek to participate in the supervision of the South African troop (?pull-out) from Angola into Namibia. Pretoria is obviously afraid of a SWAPO victory at the polls through free and fair elections under UN supervision and control. She, therefore, will fear that something which would only resemble international supervision but one which will be short of [word indistinct], and many of the procedural steps stipulated under Resolution 435 would be adopted for the (?tranferral) process in Namibia. [words indistinct] Washington is [words indistinct] deliberately trying to conceal the distinction between the South African troops withdrawal from Angola and the cease-fire between SWAPO and South Africa in Namibia.

(?A special) ally of apartheid South Africa, the United States is trying in connivance with Pretoria to place itself in a strategic position to control events in and around Namibia. Washington has already begun to establish a center of operation in Windhoek, ahead of the commencement of the implementation of the UN plan for the independence of Namibia. In this connection it is relevant to point out that South Africa has been publicly announcing that she has been given certain guarantees by the Reagan administration concerning Pretoria's interests in and around Namibia.

What is then left to us? The staccato of machine-gun fire will continue to offer the racists the best language they have opted for. The armed struggle identifies every [word indistinct] and the fascists in our country have become [word indistinct]. Our bravery, inherited from our forefathers, who battled the Germans with a few old rifles, will lead us to nationhood. In the absence of a peaceful settlement in Namibia, the whole issue will then be discussed at the battlefield through blood and fire. We are determined at all costs to fight and die for our beautiful country.

SOUTH AFRICA

Coetzee: Police Will Act Against Anti-Nkomati Groups

MB271635 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, says the South Africa Police [SAP] will not hesitate to act against any individual or group involved in any activity within the country that may jeopardize the Nkomati accord between South Africa and Mozambique. He was commenting in Pretoria on reports of possible South African reaction against the Mozambique movement, Renamo. He said that the police were anxious to ensure that the provisions of the accord relating to the responsibilities of the SAP were observed to the letter. Gen Coetzee said the police had not been involved in the search of homes of ANC members in Mozambique at the weekend.

Constitution Minister Comments on Domestic Affairs

MB231855 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, has commented of prospects for peace under the new constitutional dispensation. He told a leadership seminar at the University of Port Elizabeth that peace would depend on the degree to which leaders, groups, and nations would cooperate. They would have to subject their power plays to cooperation aimed at improving the quality of life and maintaining the security of all. Mr Heunis said that there were no absolute guarantees that the constitutional structures would not be abused.

Mr Heunis said the manner in which each group handled its affairs could lead to conflict and tension. This was why each group would have to allow others to arrange their affairs to the best of their ability and to avoid interfering in the domestic affairs of others. However, he sounded a warning that own affairs

could not be used as an instrument for interfering with the joint handling of general affairs.

New Water Agreement With Neighbors Planned

MB271445 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A new cooperation agreement on the development and exploitation of water resources between South Africa and three of its neighbors is in the offing.

The managing engineer of the directorate of water affairs, Mr (Theo van Robroke), said in Pretoria today that the draft agreement had been drawn up by representatives of South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana at a meeting in Maputo. He said the object of the Limpopo Basin Technical Committee was to organize the exploitation of the Limpopo River to the mutual benefit of the four countries. He said it was hoped that the draft agreement would be ratified by the Governments of South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, and Zimbabwe at a meeting to be held in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, later this year.

Mr (van Robroke) said he believed there had to be cooperation between the states of southern African on the development of the region as a whole, and there could be no development without water. He said this new draft agreement could be attributed to the new spirit of cooperation on the subcontinent flowing from the Nkomati accord signed by South Africa and Mozambique.

Cuban Pullout 'Essential' to Namibian Solution

MB260845 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "South-West Africa"]

[Text] The withdrawal of Cubans from Angola does not fall strictly within the terms of Security Council Resolution 435, but the South African Government has made it clear that failure to obtain a Cuban withdrawal made the implementation of the resolution impossible. The American Administration agrees. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Frank Wisner, on a recent visit to southern Africa, reaffirmed that a South-West African settlement should be accompanied by a simultaneous withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. We are seeking practical ways to arrive at a settlement, he said, ways to improve prospects for security and peace in the region at large.

Against this background, South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha has now stated again that the South African Government has consistently made it clear that Reolution 435 could not be implemented unless an agreement was reached on Cuban withdrawal. Obviously, if such an agreement cannot be reached, an alternative way of achieving the territory's independence will have to be found — preferably with international recognition. The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is not merely an unrelated demand made by South African and some Western governments for ulterior motives, as opponents have claimed. It is an essential condition for achieving the aims of the United Nation's own plan for South-West African independence. Those aims are embodied in Resolution 435, adopted by the Security Council in September 1978. Resolution 435 states that the independence of South-West Africa must be achieved through free and fair elections. But SWAPO, one of the main participants in the struggle for political power in the territory, has no interest in a democratic settlement. That has been stated openly by Sam Nujoma, who has stated often that SWAPO would intensify its terrorist campaign. The task of the architects of a democratic settlement is to make it impossible for SWAPO to continue with its terrorist campaign. That means the Cuban factor must be removed.

In material terms, the viability of SWAPO's offensive is dependent on the assistance its receives from the Cuban troops in Angola, on their provision of secure bases, on the planning and training facilities they offer, their availability as an inexhaustible source of weapons, and on their logistical support. The psychological significance is no less important. The Cubans are an ever present and visible assurance to SWAPO that it has the backing of a major power for its terrorist campaign. Removing the Cuban obstacle is no more than a necessary step in achieving the United Nation's own stated goal for the territory.

SWAZILAND

Defense Minister Dube Returns From UK Tour

MB271934 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of defense and youth, Colonel Fonono Dube, arrived home yesterday from the UK where he reviewed training opportunities for young people. In a press statement, the British high commissioner's office in Mbabane said: During his week-long visit to Great Britain, the defense minister tested rugged touring vehicles and also looked at the high-technology communications equipment. The statement said the visit had been organized to familiarize him with Ministry of Defense activites and to see youth groups involved in both military and vocational training.

During his stay in the UK, the defense minister was shown one type of a facility designed to encourage school leavers to learn a practical trade, something like basic engineering, woodworking, pottery, or printing, to building maintenance or general office skills. The defense minister was also shown around the South Walk Microtechnology Information Technology center, where youngsters can learn and develop computer skills. The minister met and talked to young cadets and members of the volunteer territorial army. Colonel Dube's itinerary also included a visit to Birmingham to test drive the new Land Rover.

The minister also had an opportunity to visit the House of Commons to see ministers being questioned by members of Parliament. During his visit to Great Britain, the minister was accompanied by his chief operations and training officer, Major David Dlamini. On his return home, the minister was expected to have talks with the British high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr Martin Reith.

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Expresses Shock at Toure's Death

MB272020 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, today expressed shock at the sudden death of Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure, saying his death has come at a time when Africa and the world needs an outstanding leader and freedom fighter of his caliber.

In a message of condolence sent to the Guinean prime minister and acting president, Dr Lansana Beavogui, Dr Kaunda said President Sekou Toure was held in high esteem by Zambians and his departure was a great loss to Zambia and Guinea.

Dr Kaunda, currently on a tour of the Copperbelt Province, described the late president who died in the United States yesterday after a heart attack as a dynamic leader, a great nationalist, an African revolutionary, a pan-Africanist, and above all, a freedom fighter and lover of peace, freedom, and justice. The president also sent his condolences to Madame Sekou Toure, saying Zambia joined their brothers and sisters in Guinea in mourning their great man whose revolutionary (?ideal) was full of love, not only for Guinea and Africa but for mankind as a whole.

Prime Minister Thanks Finland for Economic Aid

MB280919 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has hailed Finland for providing economic assistance to Zambia, especially in the fields of agriculture, forestry, energy, education, and transport. Speaking in his office when the new Finnish ambassador to Zambia, Mr Garth Castreen, called on him, Mr Mundia paid tribute to Finland for assisting Zambia in her new decentralization system by providing trucks, 95 of which will be given to the country this year as a grant.

Mr Mundia, who thanked the Finnish International Development Aid for giving practical and financial support for (?preservation) of teak forests in southern Africa, said Zambia has a lot to learn from Finland. The prime minister also spoke of Finland's assistance to the country in the prospecting for phosphates in the Central, Eastern, and Southern Provinces. He explained that the exploitation of phosphates to provide fertilizer will reduce expenses on the importation of fertilizer from overseas, adding that the exploitation will also benefit other countries in east and southern Africa.

In reply, the Finnish ambassador promised to increase economic cooperation between his country and Zambia.

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister Sends Condolence Message to Guinea

MB271942 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has sent a message of condolence to the prime minister of the Republic of Guinea, Comrade Lansana Beavogui, on the death of President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Comrade Mugabe said the people of Zimbabwe deeply share his struggle. He said the late President Toure will be remembered as a true patriot who fought seriously for the independence of his country. Comrade Mugabe added that the people of the African Continent will forever remember Comrade Sekou Toure as one of the founding fathers of the OAU in 1953 and for his dedication for the cause of African unity.

Several African heads of state have paid tribute to the Guinean leader, and called him deeply (?committed) to the unity of the continent. Many leaders have already announced that they will attend the funeral of Comrade Sekou Toure, due to be held in Conakry on Friday.

Mugabe Reaffirms Support for Nkomati Accord

MB271012 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says Zimbabwe supports the nonaggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique because it will benefit the entire southern African region. Comrade Mugabe told foreign newsmen recently that his government will benefit from the pact because Mozambique National Resistance bandits have been ruining Zimbabwe's economy.

The *RAND DAILY MAIL* of South Africa quoted Comrade Mugabe as saying the pact is aimed at securing maximum peace in the region, but that does not institute a new acceptance of apartheid. Comrade Mugabe said the ANC of South Africa will benefit more if the frontline states remain politically and economically viable. He added his government's support for any struggle that the people of South Africa might undertake.

Mangwende Asks People of RSA To End Apartheid

MB271652 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, has urged the people of South Africa to dismantle apartheid and create a democratic society in that country. Comrade Mangwende was speaking at a ceremony to mark the Greek national day in Harare yesterday. He said Greeks and the international community should intensify their opposition to apartheid and support movements which are fighting for independence in southern Africa. Comrade Mangwende expressed the hope that a peaceful solution will be found to the Cyprus problem, where the Greek community controls half of the country.

The Greek ambassador to Zimbabwe, Dimitri Skouroliakos, said relations between his country and Zimbabwe are improving.

Minister of Mines Ndlovu Opens Labor Seminar

MB261311 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The labor movement's image and character should reflect the country's socialist objectives as well as improvements in the living conditions of workers. This was said by the minister of mines, Comrade Callistus Ndlovu, when he opened a 5-day seminar of the National Executive of the Associated Mine Workers of Zimbabwe union in Harare today. Instead, in the past, the labor movement has been an instrument of consultation. The minister said because the state was class-oriented, there tended to be conflict between the labor movement and management.

Comrade Ndlovu said the socialist system recognises a strong and constructive relationship between the labor movement and management, which results in higher productivity and better communication. The minister urged the union's leadership to motivate workers to function effectively, to improve efficiency and harmonious industrial relations, as well as to achieve greater productivity.

The seminar, being sponsored by the (Fred Mechilideck) Foundation, covers issues relating to worker participation, collective bargaining, workers committees, trade unionism, and National Industrial Council labor and law. [phrase as heard]

Finance Minister Opens Demographic Workshop

MB261432 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A 3-week demographic venture [as heard] workshop opened in Harare today. The workshop, which is being attended by about 13 interministerial participants and members from the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] countries, aims at discussing data collection, evaluation, analysis, and statistical presentation. The workshop, which was organized by the Central Statistical Office, also aims at training government officials in the techniques of collecting statistical information and analyzing it thereafter.

Opening the workshop today, the minister of finance, economic planning, and development, Comrade Bernard Chidzero, said to formulate a national plan or a new policy, the government needs information which serves as a basis for sound decisions and for monitoring the effects of the decisions. Comrade Chidzero said government and other SADCC countries are currently attempting to solve problems which have resulted from the drought. He said these problems include a decline in agricultural productivity, which has aggravated the plight of the rural masses, deforestation, and desert formation, which have become major problems in some parts of the country.

Comrade Chidzero said in view of these problems, including the vast squatter and slum area problems, it is necessary for Zimbabwe to come to terms with the issue of preparation of growth and the concentration on national development. he also disclosed that the Central Statistical Office had decided to establish a course which will provide intensive training in handling, processing, and analyzing data and demographic data as one way of correcting the problem of a shortage of statisticians at the national level.

Malawian Exile Group Shifts Party Allegiance

MB260903 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A report from Harare says the Zimbabwean branch of the Congress for the Second Republic of Malawi [CSRM], an underground group opposed to Malawian President Hastings Kamuzu Banda, has decided to disband and join another Malawian exile party, Lesoma. The Zimbabwean representative of the CSRM, (Martin Chekudika), told the ZIMBABWE NEWS AGENCY that the decision had been taken because of dissatisfaction with the policies of CSRM leader Kanyama, who visited Zimbabwe from his base in Dar es Salaam 3 weeks ago.

Mugabe Mistakenly Listening to Tanzanian 'Siren Song'

MB250905 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "The Pitfalls of Socialism"]

[Excerpt] Socialism is a failure everywhere because it is quite simply long out of date. What exists today in the various socialist parties and governments is an inability and an unwillingness to recognize that both the struggle and the adversary have changed. The industrial revolution is gone, as is mass exploitation of workers by employers. The First and Second World Wars put an end to such practices, and the working man in the West at least enjoys every employment advantage. It is the working man in the socialist and Marxist state who is now the oppressed victim of governmental, not employer, exploitation. Because socialism is backward- rather than forward-looking, its proponents are continually tied to policies rooted in the past and not in the present. In other words, while socialism has desirable features of itself, it is outdated in a world entering the 21st century of space travel and the thinking computer, and this accounts for much of the backwardness of all Marxist-socialist countries, such as Tanzania. Incapable of entering the new century, industrially and technologically rooted in the past, debt-ridden, and uneducated, these countries and their leaders ultimately have nowhere to go.

Zimbabwe is on the very edge of following Tanzania into the limbo of economic extinction in the chase for ideological mastery and dictatorship. It can only be hoped that Mr Mugabe and his adherents will pull back from the brink in time. Circumstances might have brought Mozambique and Angola to the rapprochement with South Africa, but the ultimate advantages for their peoples will be to the benefit of all. It is high time Mugabe awoke to this fact as well. Mugabe should long since have abandoned the siren song emanating from Tanzania and should begin to listen to the voice of sweet reason coming from the West. Africa might be vast, but it is drought- and plague-ridden, and

its leaders have to come to terms with reality rather than unworkable visions of the past. Without South Africa, southern and central Africa have absolutely no way to go but down. It is high time political mischief-makers such as Julius Nyerere were ignored in the interests of our own people and their special cares and needs. Like it or not, Africa must enter the 21st century with the rest of mankind or face the fact of being behind for all time.

The challenge lies with our leadership, and while we doubt their ability to measure up, we can only hope that some of them at least recognize our impending doom as a national state in a modern world.